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The Canberra Times

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Rinse and repeat?

Australia's hopes of inflicting yet more World Cup semi-final misery on South Africa will depend on the weather gods.

REPORTS: PAGES 38-39

Steve Smith at training in Kolkata, India. Picture Getty Images

Contract snub maritime threat

Crispin Hull

THE MAINTENANCE of Australia's critical maritime shipping and navigation network is now under threat because the Australian Maritime Safety Authority has refused to renew the contract of the existing maintenance provider, AMS Group, and apparently has no back-up plan and no other tenderer

to turn to.

AMS Group says the decision is inexplicable and threatens Australia's defence, trade and environmental national interests.

The authority told AMS Group that the tender would not be renewed because AMS Group was "unsuitable" for technical-capability reasons.

| Full story Page 6

The commission on Wednesday released a consultation paper on the strategy, admitting the APS was failing to meet a basic responsibility of ensuring safe, fair and inclusive workplaces for all staff.

Targets in scope to fix APS racism

Report calls out 'very serious' issue

Miriam Webber

THE Australian Public Service Commission is considering diversity targets and more transparent recruitment processes, as it responds to reports of racism across federal government agencies.

The commission on Wednesday released a consultation paper on the strategy, admitting the APS was failing to meet a basic responsibility of ensuring safe, fair and inclusive workplaces for all staff.

In a survey of 843 staff

ALSO INSIDE

- | Couple guilty of staging crash: Page 2
- | World: Troops storm Gaza hospital: Page 13
- | Opinion: Let's tax for road damage: Page 25

fied feedback had illustrated a status quo in which cultural, linguistic and racial difference are framed "as a deviation from the 'norm' which needs to be altered or managed".

Greens spokesperson on anti-racism Mehreen Faruqi, who called on Public Service Minister Katy Gallagher to commit to the strategy in January, welcomed the progress, but said it was "a crying shame they have failed up to now to provide a workplace that is safe and free from racism".

| Continued Page 6



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NEWS

The Canberra Times

VOLUME 98 | NUMBER 32,310

TIMES PAST

November 16, 1989

On this day in 1989, The Canberra Times reported on a different type of event in the city, elite level horse riders jumping in Glebe Park. On Wednesday, November 15, 1989, Glebe Park was an equestrian hub as horses Matilda, Platoon, Ivan and Phantom did their thing. Australia's leading show jumpers were put through their paces before they gave the site their "imprimatur" stamp of approval for the Glebe Park World Cup Showjumping event that would take place on the Saturday and Sunday, January 27 and 28, 1990. Colleen Brook, Vicky Roycroft and George Sanna were flown in especially for the event's launch by Paul Whalan, ACT Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing. The event would be the final round of the Australian selection trials for the World Cup in Stockholm in August 1990. The event would be staged by the ACT Showjumping Club, the program of at least 14 events would carry about \$12,000 in prize money and was expected



to attract 350 to 400 riders, including D to A-graders and international class riders. The main event, The Glebe Park World Cup event at 4pm on the Saturday, was expected to attract about 35 of Australia's top riders, as well as two international riders from New Zealand and Japan. All three of the riders were in Canberra to test out the course and were joined by Canberra's leading show jumper, Grant Hughes, of Forest Park Riding School. Hughes provided the horses, taking the mount on Phantom, while Brook rode Matilda, Sanna on Platoon and Roycroft on Ivan. The image on the front page shows George Sanna jumping an obstacle in Glebe Park with office workers watching on. Visit: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/12967935#>

FRIDGE DOOR

Old Collegians of MLC (Melbourne) are invited to a social lunch at Ainslie Football Club on Saturday, November 25 at 12 midday. Contact details: Sally Phillips 0417 120 438.

SUBMISSIONS: Email details to fridgedoor@canberratimes.com.au

TODAY'S WEATHER

CANBERRA Min 9 Max 26

Shower or two

Chance of rain: 50%

CANBERRA AREA

Partly cloudy. Medium chance of showers, most likely in the afternoon and evening. Light winds becoming westerly 15 to 25km/h in the middle of the day.

LOTTERIES

Tuesday OzLotto draw No. 1552:

38, 12, 1, 32, 45, 9, 4. Supps: 10, 43, 18.

Division 1: Jackpotted

Division 2: \$40,444.75

Division 3: \$6,691.75

Division 4: \$404.70

Division 5: \$52.70

Division 6: \$25.55

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Rabea Fares, and inset, Lina Faris, outside court. Pictures by Tim Piccione

Couple guilty of staging car crash

Tim Piccione

A MARRIED couple have been found guilty of staging a car crash in order to commit insurance fraud.

Police and two insurance companies began investigating the pair after their involvement in a crash on Duffy's Eucumbene Drive in February 2020.

On Wednesday, an ACT Supreme Court jury found Rabea Fares and Lina Faris guilty of numerous charges, including attempting to, by deception, dishonestly obtain a financial advantage from someone else.

Faris told authorities she had been driving an Audi SUV at the speed limit and in the middle of the road when she "felt a big bang behind her".

Prosecutor Morgan Howe told jurors this was a lie, with police evidence indicating the Audi was stationary and parked to the side of the road on impact.

"This was not an organic car accident but, rather, a staged car accident," Mr Howe said last week in his opening address.

The prosecutor said the married couple were "dishonest and deceptive in a number of fundamental respects".

The husband and wife filed claims for the Audi, which was insured for \$55,000, and third party claims for injuries suffered.

The jury heard the woman had told "deliberate lies to try and arouse as little suspicion about the circumstances of the collision".

The prosecution case was that Faris, the driver, and Fares, the passenger, knew a BMW sports car would crash into the rear of their car.

Adam Hasan Kilani, the man driving the BMW, had worked with Fares and call records showed the two men spoke on the phone hours before the crash and in the weeks leading up to it.

Kilani previously pleaded guilty to attempting to, by deception, obtain a financial advantage from someone else, and dangerous driving.

While Kilani gave trial evidence that appeared to support the defence cases, Mr Howe described him as an "entirely unreliable witness" who was at times at odds with call records and previous admissions.

Faris and Fares were both found guilty of being "knowingly concerned" with Kilani's fraudulent claim, meaning they "connected themselves or involved themselves with that offence".

"The only rational reason why someone would involve themselves in a staged car crash is if they too would gain some kind of financial benefit," the prosecutor said.

Barrister Dean Ager, representing Faris, said there was no evidence the woman knew Kilani, of "any plan" he had to run into her car, or that he would make his own insurance claims.

"Do not assume a husband tells his wife everything," the barrister said at the conclusion of his closing address.

Mr Ager also told jurors Faris' changing versions of circumstances surrounding the crash could be explained by memory loss suffered from a whiplash injury or because she was a "poor historian".

Fares' barrister, Todd Pickering, told jurors the man's painting business was successful and he had no financial motivation to stage a crash and defraud insurance companies.

"He's doing quite well, financially," the barrister said. "It doesn't make any sense."

Mr Pickering also said Fares and Kilani did not contact each other after the crash, which was "not consistent with some kind of staged accident".

The case is set to appear before a registrar next week to be given a sentencing hearing date.

Police dismantle \$1.5b crime syndicate

STATE police will work with federal and overseas authorities to try to bring a key figure in an alleged billion-dollar crime syndicate back to NSW after arresting dozens of accused associates in a major sting operation.

Lebanese officials arrested Bilal Haouchar - a well-known underworld figure - along with four associates in Beirut overnight as NSW police swooped on more than 28 alleged members of one of Australia's largest crime syndicates.

Investigators on Wednesday lifted the veil of secrecy on the year-long investigation, which involved state police, the NSW Crime Commission, Australian Border Force and the Australian Federal Police.

Police said the crime syndicate, which was largely operated from Lebanon, had been linked to \$1.5 billion in cryptocurrency transactions while committing various firearm, drug, tobacco and money-laundering offences.

The domestic police operation swung into force on Sunday when a 40-year-old man was arrested at Sydney Airport while attempting to leave the country.

Police allege he is a ring-leader of the syndicate's Australian arm and charged him with nine offences including directing the activities of a criminal group, supplying prohibited drugs and dealing with the proceeds of crime.

Two other men were arrested on suspicion of being facilitators of the crime syndicate and charged with similar drug and criminal activity offences.

All three were refused bail to appear in local courts across Sydney during the week.

NSW Police Deputy Commissioner David Hudson described the gang as "the biggest criminal network or enterprise in Australia" and one that had strong "familial links".

"We will allege this international network had tentacles far-reaching into all levels of organised crime here in NSW and is believed to have controlled the illicit drug trade through price determining and fixing," he said.

Two tonnes of prohibited drugs, with a street value of over \$130 million, were seized along with 60 encrypted devices and 25 firearms during the execution of 43 search warrants across Sydney.

Trial to allow pharmacies to prescribe contraceptive pill

Lanie Tindale

FIVE pharmacists in the ACT will be able to prescribe oral contraceptive pills to some Canberrans in an "exciting" new trial.

Ordinarily, patients must have an appointment with their general practitioner each time their medication runs out.

Under the trial by NSW Health and the University of Newcastle, people aged 18 to 35 who use the pill for contraception may be able to get a script from a pharmacist instead.

They must have been on a low-risk oral contraceptive pill for the last two years, and will have a private consultation with a pharmacist each time they get a script.

There is no time limit for how long patients can get the pill from their pharmacist.

The chemists offering the service are Capital Chemist Charnwood, Gold Creek Discount Drug Store, The Pharmacy on Petrie, Erindale Pharmacy and Pharmasave Woden Pharmacy.

The trial will make it easier and cheaper for some patients to access their regular



Capital Chemist Charnwood's Samantha Kourtis. Picture by Gary Ramage

medication, managing partner of Capital Chemist Charnwood, Samantha Kourtis, said.

"This is a cost-effective and incredibly convenient way to ensure they have access to the medications they need for contraceptive purposes," she said.

"They don't need to make an appointment and aren't

paying a full consult fee that they would sometimes."

"[In Canberra], to find a bulk-billing GP, they're hard to find and they're very hard to get into."

Giving pharmacists more power to prescribe medications will help reduce pressure on emergency departments and general health practitioners, Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith said.

and can't prescribe an oral contraceptive pill that's used for any other purpose for contraception."

The pharmacist needs to check their height, weight and blood pressure and needs to do a private consult with the patient every time," she said.

"The pharmacist can't change the oral contracep-

tive pill, and can't prescribe an oral contraceptive pill that's used for any other purpose for contraception."

The same five pharmacies are also able prescribe treatments for urinary tract infections (UTIs) through a different trial.

Any pharmacist can dispense emergency contraception, or the morning after pill.

They are among the "most accessible" health professionals, Ms Kourtis said.

"Every day I am seeing patients who can't get in to their GP for urgent and acute conditions that require really timely access to medications," she said.

"I also see people who come into the pharmacy and they've run out of prescriptions for their regular ongoing medications and they can't get into their GP for weeks, or even a month."

However, the Royal College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has condemned pharmacy contraceptive pill dispensing trials, calling them "madness".

RACGP president, Adjunct Professor Karen Price, said a similar NSW trial would be "a recipe for disaster, plain and simple."

Patient care will be fragmented, resulting in reduced patient safety and reduced health outcomes. This isn't a solution for patients, this is a solution for the pharmacy lobby," she said.

"I strongly urge the state's leaders to resist the lure of the powerful Pharmacy Guild lobby group".

Molonglo bridge to get an extra \$25m

Karen Barlow

Chief political correspondent

CANBERRA'S major infrastructure project, the proposed Molonglo River bridge crossing, has received a \$25 million boost as the Albanese government refocuses and realigns its multibillion-dollar infrastructure investment agenda.

Infrastructure and Transport Minister Catherine King will on Thursday morning announce that the long-awaited ACT bridge and other large projects such as the Logan-Gold Coast Faster Rail will get significant federal funding increases, while finally revealing the details where the axe will fall on a range of federal projects.

Ms King is outlining the Albanese government's response to the independent strategic review of the Infrastructure Investment Program, but ahead of the release, it is insisted there are no cuts to the overall \$120 billion infrastructure pipeline.

"The Albanese government is committed to delivering infrastructure that builds Australia and improves lives. To do this, we need an infrastructure program that is fit for purpose, fiscally responsible and above all, deliverable," Ms King said in a statement.

"The independent review found that the Infrastructure Investment Program we inherited could not be delivered."

The minister is detailing a revised Infrastructure Investment Program after con-

sultation with the states and territories. It is promised there will be programs that will be built with additional federal funding, built as planned, those that need a business case developed, planning projects that will go ahead as planned, corridors or grouping of projects that will be established, and finally, projects that will not receive federal funding "at this time".

After the minister stressed on Wednesday that smaller jurisdictions such as the ACT would have special consideration in the infrastructure overhaul, the government will outline that the Molonglo River Bridge project, which will service the growing Molonglo region and supersede the low-lying Coppins Crossing, will get an extra \$25 million, taking

the project's total finding to \$197.7 million.

The ACT and federal government announced in February that BMD Construction Pty Ltd had been awarded the contract to build the jointly funded project.

The bridge is expected to be open to the public at the end of 2025.

Ahead of the full announcement on Thursday, the government said it is maintaining the commitments to the Melbourne Airport Rail Link, the Milton Ulladulla Bypass, the Singleton Bypass, and the Tasman Bridge Upgrade.

Among the projects to receive additional funding, there will be \$1.75 billion for the Logan-Gold Coast Faster Rail, \$347 million for Rockhampton Ring Road, and \$50 million for Richmond Road in Sydney.

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NEWS

Defence recalls cyber security co-ordinator

Miriam Webber

THE National Cyber Security Co-ordinator, Air Marshal Darren Goldie, has been recalled to Defence to "deal with a workplace matter related to his time in Defence".

Minister for Home Affairs and Cyber Security Clare O'Neil and the Department of Defence issued media releases about the move on Wednesday, but provided little detail.

"National Cyber Security Coordinator, Air Marshal Darren Goldie, AM, CSC, has been recalled to Defence to deal with a workplace matter related to his time in Defence," a statement from the department reads.

"He is currently on leave. While the matter is under consideration it would be inappropriate to comment further."

"The welfare of our people remains our priority and it is requested that Air Marshal Goldie's privacy is respected at this time."

The release from the Home Affairs Minister said she had been informed of the recall.

Home Affairs deputy secretary Hamish Hansford will act as National Cyber Security Co-ordinator in the interim.

Air Marshal Goldie was appointed to the top cyber role in July, following data breaches such as those affecting Optus and Medibank customers last year, and tasked with leading national cyber security policy and the coordination of responses to major incidents.

Prior to this, he served more than 30 years in the Royal Australian Air Force, including as Air Commander Australia.



Australian National Botanic Gardens nursery manager Joe McAuliffe. Picture by Keegan Carroll

'Living lab' will excite visitors

Natalie Vikhrov

GIANT palm trees will be brought in from Queensland and then craned in through the roof of the long-awaited 'floating cube' conservatory before it opens to the public next year.

Construction of the 70-meter-tall Ian Porter National Conservatory at the Australian National Botanic Gardens is expected to finish next May, after which it will be filled up with hundreds of rare and threatened native and tropical plants.

"We've got threatened species from Kakadu National Park, Christmas Island, North Queensland," said Australian National Botanic Gardens manager Peter Byron.

"It'll be the biggest collection of Australian tropical plants in the world."

Mr Byron said the conservatory will not only be a major tourist attraction but also serve as a "living laboratory", where researchers from the ANU or CSIRO will be able to study the plants without having to make long trips to remote parts of the country.

"It will certainly make it more accessible for researchers to study a lot of these threatened tropical plants that we have in Australia, understand them, learn how to grow them, learn about preserving them into the future," he said.

Nursery manager Joe McAuliffe said hundreds of plants have already been

flooded in from around the country for the conservatory.

He said the conservatory will not only house plants that will be used for research but it will also showcase that research and educate visitors.

"Those stories and what we found with the research ... can be put into the conservatory and you can listen to them," Mr McAuliffe said.

The conservatory is expected to bring in a tourism boost to the region, with Mr Byron anticipating visitor numbers to the botanic garden could grow by an additional 100,000, on top of the botanic garden's annual 500,000 guests.

"There's so much interest in this," he said.

"I know VisitCanberra are

very excited about the tourism impacts as well, for people coming into Canberra to see a new attraction."

The conservatory forms part of the botanic garden's 20-year plan and is co-funded by the Federal government and philanthropic organisation The Ian Potter Foundation, which has committed \$1.5 million to the project.

Construction on the conservatory started in mid-2021 but the finish date has been delayed due to a COVID lockdown and above average rainfall last year.

The design for the conservatory was created by Sydney architect firm CHROFI, which was chosen through a competition with more than a dozen designers.

"We were just after something really innovative, something really sustainable, low energy use ... a perfect environment for tropical plants," Mr Byron said.

"There's so much concrete in the design that it creates a really stable environment, so that you literally don't need to have lots of heating or cooling throughout the year."

Mr Byron said the design is the first of its kind in the world and has garnered "a lot of international interest". He said once construction is finished, staff will move in the plants and bring in the "really big trees we've got growing up in Queensland".

"They'll get craned in through the roof and then we'll open [the conservatory]," he said.

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Workers still going backwards as prices eclipse pay gains

Adrian Rollins
Economics correspondent

WAGES are growing at their fastest pace on record but workers are still going backwards because pay gains are being outstripped by inflation.

The wage price index jumped 1.3 per cent in the September quarter, the biggest increase in the measure's 26-year history, pushing annual wages growth up to 4 per cent.

The rise was driven by the combined effect of a 5.75 per cent minimum wage increase handed down by the Fair Work Commission, higher pay for aged care workers, the negotiation of new enterprise agreements and the removal of wage caps for state government workers, said Australian Bureau of Statistics head of price statistics Michelle Marquardt.

The ABS official said pay gains were secured by workers under a variety of employment arrangements including award and enterprise agreements and those on individual contracts.

Those in the private sector secured the biggest average



Hospitality workers scored pay increases. Picture by Gary Ramage

annual wage boost, 4.2 per cent, while public employees gained an average 3.5 per cent.

"Many public sector jobs were affected by the ending of state wage caps and the resolution of wage negotiations. This resulted in initial or backdated increases being paid for jobs covered by the newly approved en-

terprise agreements," Ms Marquardt said.

But pay negotiations between the federal government and Commonwealth public servants remain deadlocked.

Although real wages are going backwards in annual terms, Treasurer Jim Chalmers and Employment Minister Tony Burke said in a state-

ment that they actually increased by 0.1 per cent in the September quarter and were expected to return to annual growth early next year.

Dr Chalmers and Mr Burke said workers deserved higher wages and "that's what we're delivering".

"We believe that solid, sustainable wages growth is part of the solution to the cost-of-

living challenges Australians face, not part of the problem," the ministers said.

But the Australian Council of Trade Unions said more needed to be done to lift real wages.

ACTU secretary Sally McManus said workers were "bearing the brunt" of the cost-of-living crisis, with inflation driving a \$1350 real wage cut in the past 12 months for someone on average full-time pay.

Ms McManus said major companies were posting record profits through price gouging, adding to the nation's inflation problem.

She urged parliament to pass the government's Closing Loopholes legislation, which aims to criminalise wage theft, set minimum standards for gig workers and enable casual jobs to be converted to permanent positions.

Independent ACT senator David Pocock and Tasmanian senator Jacqui Lambie succeeded in forcing the bill to be split, with debate on the bulk of proposed measures put off to a later date, probably not before 2024.

Shadow treasurer Angus

Taylor said the wages figures confirmed "what Australian households already knew. Which is that their living standards are going backwards fast".

Mr Taylor said it was real wage growth, not nominal gains, that mattered to families and accused the treasurer of failing to tackle inflation.

"What I want to see is higher real wages; that is the only thing that counts. It's what wages can buy that counts," he said.

But Dr Chalmers told Parliament that annual real wages had fallen by 3.4 per cent under the Coalition and the rate of decline had now slowed to 1.4 per cent, showing that the government was "closing the gap".

The biggest wage gains were in the hospitality and food services sector, where they grew by 3.2 per cent in the September quarter, in part as a result of the Fair Work Commission's annual wage review. Some hospitality jobs received two award increases in a year. Health and care workers received a 3.1 per cent quarterly pay boost.

FEDERAL POLITICS PwC scandal prompts new laws to toughen oversight

Govt tax crackdown to target advisers

Adrian Rollins
Economics correspondent

INDIVIDUALS and organisations promoting tax avoidance schemes could be fined up to \$780 million and the powers of regulators enhanced as part of a federal government crackdown on tax advisers following the PwC confidentiality breach scandal.

As the fallout from the scandal continues to over-

shadow dealings between the government and consultants, Treasurer Jim Chalmers has announced new laws to toughen the oversight of the tax advice industry will be introduced to parliament on Thursday.

The legislation will improve the ability of the Australian Taxation Office and the Tax Practitioners Board to investigate and refer tax advisers who engage in misconduct by scrapping

secrecy provisions that hamper information sharing, allowing referrals for disciplinary action, protecting whistleblowers, ensuring more time for investigations and substantially increasing the penalties miscreants face.

"Our crackdown on misconduct in the tax advice industry is all about preventing the kind of terrible misconduct exposed by the PwC scandal from ever happening again," Dr Chalmers said.

Assistant Treasurer Stephen Jones said PwC's behaviour had exposed "severe shortcomings" in regulatory frameworks and the government's bill was aimed at strengthening accountability within the tax system.

"We are introducing the biggest government crackdown on tax adviser misconduct in Australian history," Mr Jones said.

The PwC scandal erupted early this year when it was

revealed that former PwC partner Peter-John Collins shared with other members of the firm confidential information about the government's plan to crack down on multinational tax avoidance.

The revelations prompted a federal police investigation, an internal inquiry led by former Telstra boss Ziggy Switkowski, the removal of former chief executive Tom Seymour and several senior partners and the divestiture

of its government services division for just \$1.

The scandal triggered a broader Senate inquiry into government use and oversight of consultants and has underlined the government's policy to cut the use of external contractors and consultants and bring more expertise in-house.

The government is also reforming the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax to raise an extra \$2.4 billion.

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AMS Group staff conduct a regular medivac training, left, while maintenance is performed on the Great Barrier Reef. Pictures supplied by AMS Group

Contract snub creates major sea safety concern

Crispin Hull

THE maintenance of Australia's critical maritime shipping and navigation network is now under threat because the Australian Maritime Safety Authority has refused to renew the contract of the existing maintenance provider, AMS Group, and apparently has no back-up plan and no other tenderer to turn to.

AMS Group says the decision is inexplicable and threatens Australia's defence, trade and environmental national interests.

In 2001, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority outsourced the task of maintaining the network - which includes things like tsunami warning, tide monitoring, and navigation hardware, including a string of essential navigation aids on the Great

Barrier Reef. AMS Group won the contract in 2001 and has had it renewed ever since, until now.

The authority told AMS Group that the tender would not be renewed because AMS Group was "unsuitable" for technical-capability reasons.

This is despite AMS Group's 22-year record of maintaining the shipping and navigation network with a 99.98 per cent uptime of navigational aids and a 91 per cent KPI award from AMSA. The authority said that that previous record had deliberately not been considered.

AMS Group was the only tenderer. There appears to be no Plan B. There are obvious defence, safety, and trade implications if Australia's navigation aids are not properly maintained.

If a beacon, wave sensor, or tsunami warning sensor becomes inoperable, it creates a huge risk to shipping and the surrounding environment. Shipping Australia and the two Great Barrier Reef pilotage service providers are alarmed.

AMS Chief Executive Glen Marshall says that his company will consider legal action, but that is not desirable and should not be necessary.

"The situation is urgent," he says. "The government must step in to ensure that Australian and international shipping can operate safely in Australian waters and beyond. Australia's defence and trade depend on it. Far too much is at stake to allow a flawed tender process to jeopardise the national interest. Something has gone seriously wrong

here and the government at the highest levels should intervene before it affects Australia's trade, defence and environment."

Responses to AMS Group's appeals to AMSA and the minister's office have been dilatory. AMSA has said it would develop a plan and the Ministers' office said that it had been advised by AMSA that AMSA was working on a plan - that was six weeks ago and still no plan. An AMSA spokesperson said yesterday: "The Australian Maritime Safety Authority recently ran a tender process for the maintenance of Aids to Navigation around Australia. The tender was conducted in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs), which must be adhered to when procuring a supplier

to undertake services for the Commonwealth. Under the CPRs, AMSA must be convinced that the supplier will deliver a high-quality service for value for money.

"The Australian public's expectation is that government agencies will apply due diligence to tender applications, and the rigorous tender review process was conducted in accordance with the CPRs.

"AMSA's approach to market did not identify a suitable contractor and AMSA is pursuing an alternative strategy to continue maintenance of the Aids to Navigation network ... The tender for emergency towage capacity is still being conducted and in accordance with the CPRs. AMSA will not provide comment on that tender until it has closed and been awarded.

Almost a third of GPs plan to retire in five years

ALMOST a third of GPs plan to retire in the next five years, prompting a call from their professional body to boost doctor numbers in the community.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has released its 7th annual Health of the Nation report, which focuses on the attraction and retention of the GP workforce. It found GPs are seeing more patients than ever and less than one per cent of people are unable to see a GP when they need to. At the same time, the average time GPs spend with patients has increased.

However, the workforce needs to be boosted as fewer medical students choose GP training and more GPs look to reduce their hours or leave the profession.

"Almost three in 10 GPs signalled their intention to retire in the next five years," the report released on Wednesday said.

The sustainability of general practices also needed attention, with four out of five practice owners concerned about the viability of their practice.

"A strong GP workforce is essential for the health of our nation but it is under pressure," RACGP President Nicole Higgins said in a statement. "Sourcing and retaining GPs remains the issue most practice owners rank as their biggest challenge."

The college is calling for incentive payments in the first six months of community GP training, study leave and paid parental leave for GPs in training. "It's unfathomable that in today's age GPs in training don't get paid parental leave," Dr Higgins said.

PUBLIC SERVICE Aboriginal staff report highest level of discrimination

Strategy proposed to tackle APS racism

From Page 1

"I can closely relate to the APS employees' experiences of being spoken down to, ignored in meetings, and our identities being reduced to stereotypes," Senator Faruqi said.

"As a person of colour this is sadly often our lot in Australia."

The survey of more than 800 staff showed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff reported discrimination

at the highest rate, of 23 per cent, followed by employees Maori, Melanesian, Papuan, Micronesian and Polynesian descent, with 16 per cent reporting racist incidents.

While those surveyed were asked about their perceptions of discrimination, the Public Service Commission acknowledged "the feedback points to racism".

Anonymous quotes given in one-on-one interviews with staff and external or-

ganisations, provide insight into the types of discrimination public servants report at work.

"Despite my qualifications and work experience, I am frequently spoken down to, ignored in meetings and do not have my contributions valued," one interviewee said.

The Public Service Minister said she wanted the service "to be a model employer, a workplace where

people from all backgrounds are valued and can progress their careers."

"That is why I tasked the Australian Public Service Commission ... with developing this Strategy, to focus on actions that can make the biggest difference for Australians from CALD backgrounds," Senator Galagher said.

The commission has proposed agencies identify and implement targets for the

representation of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) staff as a priority, alongside a suite of other measures to be applied in the short-, medium- and long-term.

The APS already has a target of 5 per cent First Nations representation by 2025.

The strategy also proposes rolling out "walk-in-the-shoes" training sessions.

These would showcase the "life experiences, contri-

butions and sacrifices CALD people make as first or second generation migrants, in establishing themselves as Australians".

Recruitment processes were perceived as "predicated on candidates presenting as non-CALD", and should also be improved, including by increasing transparency, with candidates to be provided with the selection panel's assessment or feedback upon request.

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NEWS

Another person contacts Greens about Davis behaviour

Jasper Lindell

GREENS leader Shane Rattenbury says another person has contacted the party wanting to share information about the conduct of former member Johnathan Davis.

"We don't know the nature of that information and we're examining the best way to have them provide information. It's probably not going to be directly to us," Mr Rattenbury said.

"We think it'd be better to bring an intermediary service to the table to consider that."

Mr Davis, 31, resigned from the Legislative Assembly late on Sunday night after being stood down by his party, which was investigating allegations he had sex with a minor and an inappropriate, but not illegal, relationship with a 17-year-old.

Mr Davis has declined, through a lawyer, to comment on any previous allegations put to him.

Mr Rattenbury on Wednesday said another person had come forward.

"Clearly our endeavours to deal with the situation ... have drawn a degree of



Greens leader Shane Rattenbury, who said another person had come forward to the party. Picture by Karleen Minney

commentary that suggest the community think we might have gone about it a different way," he said.

Mr Rattenbury said there was no delay to inform Chief Minister Andrew Barr about the issue due to a lack of confidence, "a point of frustration for the Labor party".

He said he did not think to do so while dealing with oth-

er concerns.

The Greens leader told Mr Barr about the issue on Friday morning, shortly before *The Canberra Times* revealed Mr Davis was under investigation and had been stood down.

"With the benefit of hindsight, I probably would reconsider that. But I was very focused on the matters we

had at hand. We had a lot of complex matters," Mr Rattenbury said.

"We had to think about the welfare of the young person, we were trying to gather information to understand the circumstances we were facing. I needed to be mindful of Mr Davis' safety and well-being. I needed to communicate with our own staff."

"Our own staff are really distressed by this. They are very dedicated to their jobs and this week has been really difficult for them. They're here to work, focus on issues for our community, focus on issues for the future. They're distressed by this as well."

Mr Rattenbury acknowledged a "broad spectrum of views in the community"

Climate, trade on agenda for Albanese

Paul Osborne

TRADE, climate and the digital economy are expected to be key topics for Anthony Albanese at the APEC summit in San Francisco being hosted by US President Joe Biden.

The prime minister left Canberra on Wednesday to head to the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation leaders' meeting.

The theme of the summit is "Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All".

"Engagement with APEC partners is critical for seizing the opportunities to create the jobs of the future, to expand our economic growth, and to take advantage of our location - on the doorstep of the fastest growing region in human history," Mr Albanese said

in a statement on Wednesday. Free and open rules-based trade, supply chain resilience and sustainable and inclusive economic growth would be Australia's priorities, he said.

One of the most closely watched aspects of the summit will be Mr Biden's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, their second in-person since the US president took office in January 2021.

The two leaders are expected to discuss what the White House described as "advancing the ball" on military-to-military communications with China, as well as the Israel-Hamas war and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Mr Albanese told parliament on Wednesday he would be making the point to

other leaders that "democratic nations must stand up consistent with the international rule of law".

The prime minister recently noted the Chinese president's participation in APEC and said talks with Mr Biden would be important.

"What we need to do is to have more dialogue and discussion because out of that comes greater understanding and it can also avoid mistakes."

The visit is expected to include a meeting with Microsoft chairman and CEO Satya Nadella who in October announced a \$5 billion investment in cloud computing and artificial intelligence infrastructure in Australia, as well as training and cybersecurity programs.

This year marks 30 years since US presi-

dent Bill Clinton hosted the first APEC leaders' meeting, at Blake Island, Washington.

Mr Clinton also began the colourful tradition of providing the leaders with themed clothing, handing out bomber jackets to his visiting counterparts.

The 21 APEC member economies account for nearly 40 per cent of the global population, almost half of global trade, and 60 per cent of global GDP.

The leaders will discuss trade and investment, the digital economy, health, gender equality and equality, clean energy and climate, anti-corruption and food security.

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton called on Mr Albanese to cancel his trip to deal with pressing domestic issues.

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Whistleblower seeks to appeal

Hannah Neale

THE trial of a defence whistleblower has been delayed with the man seeking to have a judge's decision appealed, after a finding he had no public duty to disobey orders.

Former military lawyer David McBride faces five charges relating to the theft and disclosure of classified documents to journalists, which detailed alleged misconduct by Australian troops in Afghanistan.

McBride has pleaded not guilty and was set to face a jury trial on Thursday, however, it has been pushed back to next week. Handing down a judgment in the ACT Supreme Court on Wednesday, Justice David Mossop said he would direct jurors that McBride had no duty to act in the Australian public interest by disobeying lawful orders.

The court had heard two days of legal argument about whether an oath of allegiance to the sovereign, sworn by McBride as a member of the military, gave rise to a duty to act in the public interest.

"There is no aspect ... that allows him to act in the



Whistleblower David McBride arrives at court on Monday. Picture by Karleen Minney

**Any duty that
was contrary
to law ... is not a
duty at all.**

Justice David Mossop

Australian public interest when that is contrary to a lawful order given," Justice Mossop said on Wednesday.

"The authorities recognise that discipline in the defence force is dependent on obeying a lawful order.

"Any duty that was contrary to law ... is not able to be described as a duty at all."

Jury selection for the trial was delayed to allow time for McBride's barrister, Stephen Odgers SC, to seek leave to file an appeal of Justice Mossop's decision.

Justice Mossop had initially denied the application saying McBride had first been committed to trial in 2019, and further delay "would be

contrary to the administration of justice".

He said vacating the trial and going to an appeal could delay the case for months, or even years. On Thursday morning, a different judge is scheduled to hear an application and decide whether to take the case to the ACT Court of Appeal.

'Fake cocaine' sparks warning

Cocaine users are being asked to consider carrying naloxone after a person died from accidentally ingesting heroin.

Authorities say a batch of the purported cocaine that contains heroin is circulating in Sydney. Two other people were hospitalised for heroin overdoses after using a substance they thought was cocaine.

NSW Poisons Information Centre medical director Darren Roberts said snorting as little as one line of heroin could result in an overdose. "One of the dangers of illicit drug supply is the strength and contents of the substance you are getting is unknown and can be inconsistent," Dr Roberts said.

"It's important that people recognise the signs of an opioid overdose early and know how to respond." These can include pin-point pupils, drowsiness, slowed breathing and skin turning blue/grey.

7 NEWS

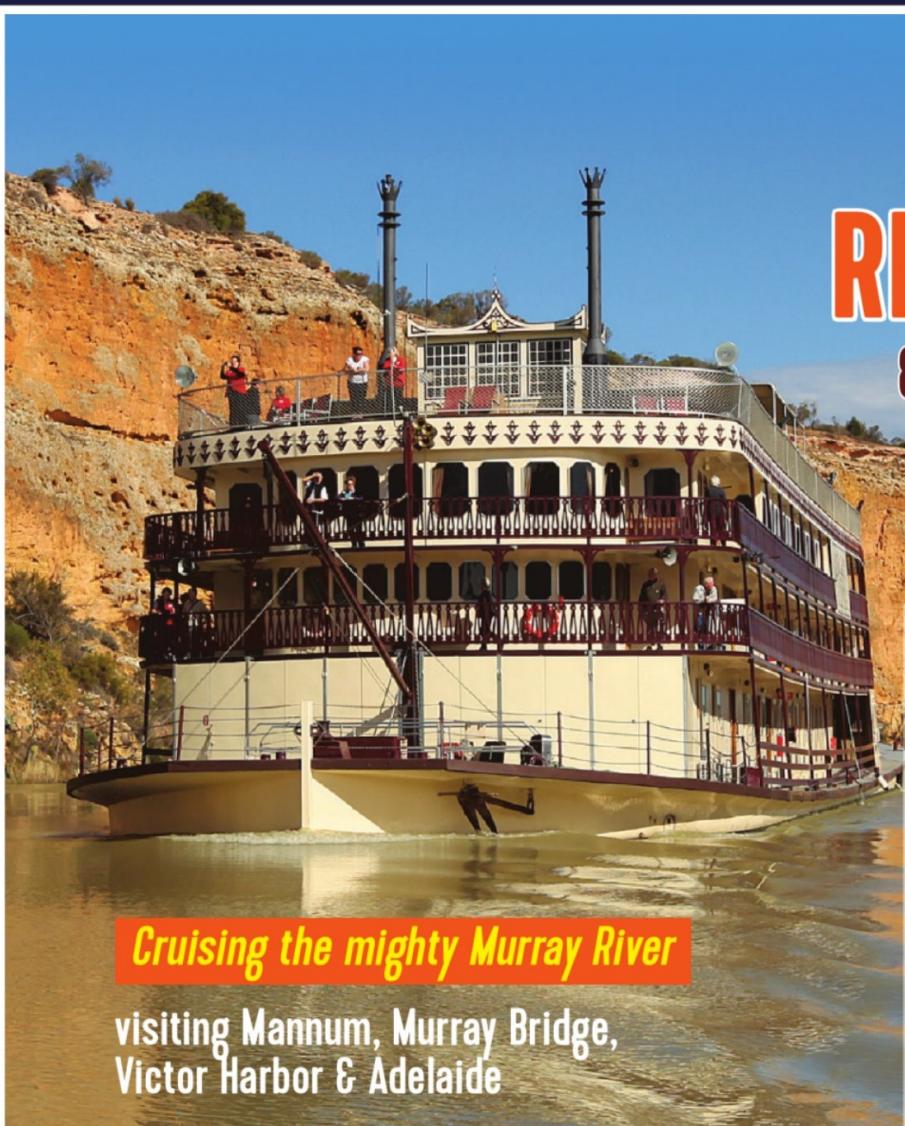
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FEDERAL POLITICS Govt criticised in response to Israel-Gaza conflict

Dutton 'weaponises' anti-Semitism

Paul Osborne, Kat Wong,
Andrew Brown

ANTHONY Albanese has accused Opposition Leader Peter Dutton of seeking to weaponise anti-Semitism, urging greater social cohesion as the Israel-Gaza conflict continues.

Responding to a Coalition motion in Parliament which criticised the government's response in dealing with the conflict, the Prime Minister hit back, saying he had been consistent in his views in calling for unity.

"The weaponisation or attempt to weaponise anti-Semitism in this chamber and make it a partisan issue is, frankly, beyond contempt," he said on Wednesday.

"I make no apologies for standing up against anti-Semitism and I will do it unequivocally ... I have a track record on this and I'm proud of it, but I also have a track record of standing up for the rights and for justice of Palestinian people."

"I make no apologies for being a consistent supporter of a two-state solution, and I make no apologies for trying to bring communities together, not divide them."

Mr Dutton had called on the prime minister to not depart Australia for the APEC summit in San Francisco until he had assured Jewish Australians would be protected in the community.

"The Prime Minister should not leave this country until the national cabinet has been convened to provide assurances and support and comfort and safety to people of the Jewish community," he said.



A Palestine supporter marches in a Sydney protest earlier this week. Picture AAP

It comes as six federal electoral offices across the country were the target of pro-Palestinian protests involving bloodied replicas of Gazan corpses.

Those targeted included Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles and fellow Labor MPs Ged Kearney and Peter Khalil.

A swathe of protests have been held across the country since Hamas, which is a declared terrorist organisation in Australia, attacked Israel and killed 1200 people on October 7.

Since then, Palestinian officials say Israel has killed more than 12,000 in Gaza in a military operation seeking to destroy Hamas.

Cabinet minister Ed Husic, one of two Muslim

ministers in the government, said too many Palestinians had died.

"The numbers absolutely are causing people deep concern. I have been worried for quite some time that Palestinians would shoulder the burden," Mr Husic said.

"Hamas should be held to account. But I've got to say, 4000 children losing their lives, they are not Hamas."

Mr Dutton said his key concern was the rise of anti-Semitism in the community.

He has written to Mr Albanese proposing a meeting with premiers and chief ministers to ensure greater social cohesion and a crackdown on anti-Jewish behaviour.

"I fear that there will be



Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Opposition Leader Peter Dutton in Parliament this week. Picture AAP

a significant act within our country which will cause harm to people in the Jewish community, or the community more broadly, at a time when temperatures are rising," he told reporters.

In his letter, Mr Dutton

said Jewish Australians feared for their personal safety. Mr Albanese met with the Israeli ambassador in Canberra on Tuesday and is expected to discuss the war on the sidelines of the APEC summit later this week.

Coach role repeatedly abused to indecently assault child

Tim Piccione

A COACH has methodically abused his position and a young girl's aspirations of playing sport professionally to indecently assault her numerous times over more than a year.

The 71-year-old predator, who cannot be named for legal reasons, eventually attempted to convince the child to begin a sexual relationship with him.

On Wednesday, the offender pleaded guilty to four counts of committing an act of indecency on a child under special care, and one count each of committing an act of indecency on a child

and the intimate capturing of visual data.

A charge of grooming was withdrawn by the prosecution.

Agreed facts tendered to the ACT Magistrates Court detail how the married man abused his position and the trust he had gained to be alone with the girl and commit his crimes.

The victim dreamt of playing cricket for Australia and regularly felt she could not reject the man's offending behaviour out of fear that he would stop coaching her.

The offending began in recent years when the girl was aged under 16 and her parents hired the man to be a

specialist athletics coach.

After an initially agreed upon 12-week block of training, the offender was hired, at his request, to be the girl's "personal coach".

His involvement in multiple aspects of her life began to increase.

He would organise for the pair to spend hours together on a daily basis, eventually without the girl's parents knowing.

The offender regularly touched the victim and initiated sexualised conversations under the guise of different forms of training, telling the victim she was a "kinaesthetic learner".

He found ways to hug the

girl, hold her hand on walks and kiss her on the cheek, before he began conducting physio "assessments" he said were better done without her mum present.

During one purported physio session, the man took and kept images of the victim in a swimming top.

The offending behaviour escalated to the man asking the victim to fill out a "sexual arousal questionnaire", repeatedly suggesting they have sex and sharing details of his sexual history.

"The offender extensively detailed the sexual conversations he would have with the complainant in a journal," agreed facts state.

He later threatened to quit being her coach and move overseas if "there was nothing between them".

When the victim's parents eventually ended the offender's coaching position and the girl told him to stop contacting her, he made attempts to reach her through her friend.

Police arrested the offender last year, when they found his journal and evidence of a commissioned artwork of himself and the victim.

The man's iPad password was the victim's name and birthday.

As part of his bail conditions, the man is not allowed to be in the presence of any

'Matilda' scores as 2023 word of the year

AUSTRALIA'S national football team has waltzed into the history books again, this time as the namesake for the 2023 word of the year.

Australian National University Dictionary Centre experts on Wednesday declared "matilda" the word of the year after the nation became transfixed over the team's FIFA Women's World Cup journey. The Matildas' history-making clash against England smashed Australian viewing records, with the semi-final against the Lionesses reaching 11.15 million viewers.

The numbers made it the most-watched program in more than 20 years and the country's biggest-ever streaming event, a factor experts took into account.

"From the 1880s matilda was one of the names for a swag, a bag of possessions carried by an itinerant man looking for work," dictionary centre director Amanda Laugesen said.

"It's only since the mid-1990s that the women's soccer team has been called the Matildas, but after this year's World Cup the word has once again cemented itself in the Australian lexicon." Famously represented in the song *Watzing Matilda*, the word ultimately comes from the female name but its origins in Australian English were unclear.

"The original German name refers to strength in battle so it's an appropriate name for a team that has inspired so many people this year, particularly young women and girls," Dr Laugesen said.

person under the age of 18 unless in the company of another adult.

Prosecutor David Swan told the court he would be making an application to lift the suppression order on the offender's name when the case returned.

The order was previously made after a defence application, not as a means to protect the victim's identity.

The case is set to return in January for a sentencing hearing.

■ Support is available for those who may be distressed. Phone Lifeline 13 11 14; Bravehearts 1800 272 831; Blue Knot Foundation 1300 657 380.

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Parly Christmas Giving Tree launched

IN AMONGST the twinkling lights and sweet voices of the children's choir at yesterday's Christmas Giving Tree launch at Parliament House, Foodbank NSW and ACT chief executive officer John Robertson had a sobering message.

Food was becoming a luxury item for many working families as the cost-of-living crisis continued and Christmas was starting to bear down on them.

"Right now, we hear constantly talk around the cost-of-living crisis and at Foodbank, we are seeing it first-hand with our charities," Mr Robertson said.

"We're now seeing for the first time ... double-income families who are going to work, who are paying rent or paying mortgage who can no longer afford to put food on the table every day for themselves and their children. I've met some of these families."

"They're families who, mum and dad will come home from work, they'll put food on the table for their children and they'll tell their kids that they had a big lunch today so that's why they're not eating so there's no guilt on the part of the children when it comes to actually them sitting down and having a meal without mum and dad eating."

"The sad reality is that one in six households are now unable to eat three meals a day and many of those are people who set an alarm and get up and go to work every day."

"Rents are going up, energy prices, all those things are putting pressure on family budgets and food has now become for many families a discretionary item in their budget."

"So they make choices about keeping the lights on, paying the rent, putting fuel in the car so they can get to work and food just becomes one of those items they have to cut back on."

Foodbank, the nation's leading food relief organisation, is one of two charities that will receive the donations raised by the Giving Tree this year.

The other is Community First Development which works with First Nations communities on self-determination-led projects



Turning on the lights of the Christmas Giving Tree at Parliament House were Canberra Grammar School students Emily Laverty and Tivon Bandara, Community First Development general manager Sharon Babyack, Senate president Sue Lines, House of Representative Speaker Milton Dick and Foodbank NSW and ACT chief executive John Robertson. Pictures by Sitthixay Ditthavong



The Canberra Grammar School choir is led by teacher Claire Halse.



House of Representatives Speaker Milton Dick is a big fan of Christmas.



The view of the Christmas tree launch from above.

around Australia. Community First Development general manager Sharon Babyack said its grassroots approach had seen projects completed such as establishing housing, sporting facilities and telecommunications at communities in Western Australia, creating a bushfoods e-commerce store for a community in the Northern Territory and helping to keep language and culture alive in other communities.

"Self-determination means in practice that we work only at the invitation of communities and communities chose their priority activities that want us to support," she said.

"We work alongside communities owning and leading each project."

"It's a really simple concept, but it's quite profound."

The six-metre tall Christmas Giving Tree

was launched by president of the Senate Sue Lines and House of Representatives Speaker Milton Dick, along with Canberra Grammar School students Tivon Bandara (year five) and Emily Laverty (year six).

The Canberra Grammar School choir also sang carols at the event.

Donations to the charities can be made using QR codes next to the Giving Tree in the Marble Foyer at Parliament House.

Nigel Johnson gets his own radio station. Called NIGE!

NIGE Johnson has scored himself his own radio station called - what else but? - NIGE!

And there's even new Nige merch, including t-shirts and caps.

The born-and-bred Canberran is one of the stars of local station MIX 106.3 where he co-hosts the breakfast show with Kristen Davidson. He also has his own show *Nige106.3* in which he plays the songs "that made growing up in Canberra great". But a Nige radio station? That's a whole new ballgame.

NIGE! the station is a digital radio station and an addition to the iHeart Radio and Listenr apps.

It launched yesterday at midday

And to avoid any confusion about the

format of NIGE!, the station follows rules set by the man himself.

They include:

- Nige only plays the music he feels like
- No James Reyne
- If you don't like the music Nige plays, then please listen to one of the many other great stations out there that play the same 300 songs over and over again
- Nige does not play commercials. They get in the way of the music.
- Nige does not take requests. He plays the music he wants to hear.
- Nige likes to have a laugh. If you don't think it's funny, that's your fault
- Nige does not set out to offend, but often succeeds, nonetheless
- Nige is honest to a fault. Unless he's broken something, in which case he will straight up lie to your face
- You can't call Nige, you can only email him and, even then, he probably won't even read the email, so don't bother
- Nige doesn't target a specific demographic or sociographic - in fact he doesn't even know what those things are. He just plays bloody good music. So everyone clear on the rules?
- And proving he is becoming a brand to rival the Kardashians, Nige also has a new website - www.nige.au - where listeners can get in touch with him and purchase NIGE! merch via the online store.
- Nige's hirsute look has become a funky black-and-white logo that adorns the merch. Get it now.



Nige has also become a logo, which is on the new merch. Picture supplied

'TARGETED OPERATION' IDF claims compound shields 'the beating heart of Hamas'

Troops storm Gaza's main hospital

Gaza

THE Israeli military is carrying out a raid against Hamas militants in the Al-Shifa Hospital, having urged them to surrender with thousands of Palestinian civilians still sheltering inside Gaza Strip's biggest hospital.

Munir al-Bursh, director-general of the Gaza health ministry, told Al Jazeera television that Israeli forces had raided the western side of the medical complex.

"There are big explosions and dust entered the areas where we are. We believe an explosion occurred inside the hospital," Bursh said.

Hours later, Gaza health ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qidra told Al Jazeera: "The occupation army is now in the basement, and searching the basement. They are inside the complex, shooting and carrying out bombings."

Israeli forces first raided the surgery and emergency departments, Mohammed Zaqout, the Gaza health ministry's director of hospitals, told reporters.

Global calls for a humanitarian ceasefire have mounted in recent days, and the fate of Al-Shifa has become a focus of international alarm because of worsening conditions in the facility, where thousands of patients, medical staff and displaced people have been trapped during the Israeli assault on Gaza in the past five weeks.

Israel has said that Hamas has a command centre underneath Al-Shifa and uses the hospital and tunnels beneath it to conceal military operations and to hold hostages. Hamas denies it.

In a statement, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said: "Based on intelligence infor-



Israel says it is intent on destroying Hamas in Gaza in retaliation for its cross-border assault. Picture AP

(They are) now in the basement, and searching the basement. They are inside the complex, shooting and carrying out bombings.

Gaza health ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qidra

mation and an operational necessity, IDF forces are carrying out a precise and targeted operation against Hamas in a specified area in the Al-Shifa hospital.

The IDF forces include medical teams and Arabic speakers, who have undergone specified training to prepare for this complex and sensitive environment, with the intent that no harm is caused to the civilians."

Israeli army spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Peter Lerner told CNN the hospital and compound were for Ha-

mas "a central hub of their operations, perhaps even the beating heart and maybe even a centre of gravity".

The US said that its own intelligence supported Israel's conclusions. Hamas said on Wednesday that the US announcement had in effect given a "green light" for Israel to raid the hospital. The group said it held Israel and US President Joe Biden fully responsible for the operation.

The US did not support air strikes on hospitals nor firefights inside where there

were sick, innocent people, the White House National Security Council said in a statement.

Israel has sworn to destroy Hamas in retaliation for the militants' cross-border assault into Israel on October 7. Israel says Hamas killed 1200 people in the rampage and took more than 240 hostage.

Hamas says 650 patients and 5000 to 7000 other civilians are trapped inside the Al-Shifa grounds, under constant fire from Israeli snipers and drones. Amid shortages of fuel, water and supplies, it says 40 patients have died in recent days, including three babies.

Without fuel for generators to power incubators, another 36 babies were being kept as warm as possible, lined up eight to a bed.

Palestinians trapped in the hospital dug a mass

grave on Tuesday to bury patients who had died and no plan was in place to remove the babies despite Israel announcing an offer to send portable incubators, Gaza's health ministry said.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was deeply disturbed by the "dramatic loss of life" in the hospital and called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire.

Medical officials in Hamas-run Gaza say more than 11,000 people are confirmed dead from Israeli strikes, about 40 per cent of them children, and countless others were trapped under rubble.

About two-thirds of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been made homeless, unable to escape the territory where food, fuel, fresh water and medical supplies are running out.

Minister blasts UN chief, calls for action

Geneva

ISRAEL'S Foreign Minister says United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is not fit to head the global body, saying he has not done enough to condemn militant group Hamas and is too close to Iran.

His comments, made at a press conference inside the UN building in Geneva, represent an intensification of Israel's criticism of the UN in the same week that the latter mourned the killing of more than 100 of its staff in Gaza. "Guterres does not deserve to be the head of the United Nations," Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said.

Cohen was meeting in Geneva with the World Health Organisation and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) alongside families of Israeli hostages.

"I think that Guterres, like all the free nations, should say clearly and loudly: Free Gaza from Hamas. Everyone says Hamas is worse than ISIS. Why can he not say it?"

Guterres has previously said there was something "wrong" with Israel's military operation which has killed more than 11,000 so far in retaliation for attacks by Hamas on October 7 which killed 1200 people. A further 240 people were seized from Israel, including infants, the injured and the elderly.

Cohen, who met with ICRC president Mirjana Spoljaric, said he expected the neutral body to do more to gain access to the hostages. "I think that the minimum is the Red Cross will meet the hostages; the minimum is they receive a proof of life; and the minimum (is) that they will transfer medicine to the hostages who are needing it."

Tens of thousands rally in support of Israel, crying 'never again'

Washington

SUPPORTERS of Israel have rallied by the tens of thousands on Washington's National Mall under heavy security, voicing solidarity in the fight against Hamas and crying "never again".

The "March for Israel" offered a resounding and bipartisan endorsement of one of America's closest allies as criticism has intensified over Israel's offensive in Gaza, set off by the bloody Hamas incursion on October 7.

Overlooking a sea of Israeli and US flags, the top Demo-

crats in Congress - Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries - came together on the stage with Republicans Mike Johnson, the House speaker, and Senator Joni Ernst, of Iowa. They joined hands as Schumacher chanted: "We stand with Israel."

Yet underneath that projection of unity, Democrats are sharply divided over Israel's course and its treatment of Palestinians. President Joe Biden now is urging Israel to restrain some of its

tactics to ease civilian suffering in Gaza after voicing full-throated solidarity with the Israelis in the war's early weeks.

A succession of speakers took the stage to denounce the Hamas attack and what they said was a virulent spread of anti-Semitism internationally, "an embarrassment to all civilised people and nations", in the words of Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who addressed the crowd by video from the Western Wall in Jerusalem. "After the largest massa-



Supporters of Israel gather in Washington. Picture AP

EDITORIAL

Govt's defence of small homes is timely

ALTHOUGH not quite a "log cabin to White House" origin story, Mick Gentleman's defence of smaller homes is a timely reminder of how much community expectations have changed in recent years.

The Planning Minister went into bat for the idea that less can be more at an ACT Legislative Assembly hearing on Tuesday after the opposition derided 120 square metre homes as inadequate for family living.

"How are young families who are already struggling with the ACT housing market meant to fit in what is essentially a 120 square-metre large granny flat?" opposition spokesperson for planning and land management, Peter Cain said.

Mr Gentleman, a former postie and then security officer for Bob Hawke and Paul Keating, has always taken pride in his blue collar roots.

He said it was quite possible to raise a family in a home less than half the size of the current Canberra average of 259 square metres.

"My three children, my wife and I all sustained ourselves in 120 square-metre three-bedroom home in Calwell. It's a very enjoyable house, and my kids have grown up well," Mr Gentleman told the Assembly.

"In my early years of growing up in Canberra ... we grew up in an 80-square-metre

The ACT has not adopted a one-size-fits-all approach to housing.

house, a two-bedroom FCC [Federal Capital Commission] home in Reid."

The Chief Minister Andrew Barr told an earlier hearing he and his husband were quite comfortable living in a 120 square metre ex-govt with a "very large cat".

Mr Barr and Mr Gentleman were defending the government's controversial RZ1 dual occupancy policy.

Under the policy a second separately ti-

ttled dwelling will be allowed on any block of more than 800 square metres. The size of the new dwellings has been capped at 120 square metres.

The changes have been vigorously opposed by residents of Canberra's leafy inner suburbs who fear infill development on a large scale will completely change the character of those neighbourhoods.

The government says the benefits well and truly outweigh any disadvantages. Canberra is suffering an acute housing shortage which has resulted in some of the highest rents in the country. The ACT is running out of developable land on the fringes and the turnaround times for green fields developments are measured in years.

Infill development taps into existing services and infrastructure. It can be turned

around relatively quickly. It also gives people an opportunity to move into well established suburbs with a wide range of amenities and community facilities.

Such developments are seen as having particular appeal for young families and for downszers.

While it would be too trite and easy to dismiss all of the objections as NIMBY-ism the government has a strong case.

Canberra has, according to Commsec and other sources, the largest house sizes in the world.

With only 2.5 people per household according to the 2021 census and an average house size of almost 260 metres many Canberrans obviously like to sprawl.

Our average of 104 square metres per person is in stark contrast to cities such as Paris where the average dwelling is 52 square metres, Moscow (45.5 square metres), Oslo (68 square metres) and Wellington, New Zealand (120 square metres).

While smaller homes won't appeal to everybody the ACT has not adopted a "one size fits all" approach.

Bigger homes can still be built on outer suburban blocks. The dual occupancy changes simply offer an attractive alternative which will be welcomed by many Canberrans.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Presumption of innocence vital when serious claims are made

I AM dumbfounded by the extent to which ACT government ministers, particularly the Attorney-General, are prepared to comment publicly on what appear to be quite serious allegations against former MLA Johnathan Davis.

I am equally astounded by the idea somebody of no doubt senior rank thought it was appropriate to do their own in-house "kangaroo court" investigation before referring the matter to police.

Mr Rattenbury is the Attorney-General; he should have a fair idea about how the law works.

I have not read one comment from Shane Rattenbury about this man being entitled to the presumption of innocence or refusing to comment publicly because of that fundamental legal right.

Funny, isn't it, how the Attorney-General was so tight-lipped when it came to the spectacular downfall of former DPP Shane Drumgold and the endemic problems in that office. God forbid if charges are laid. What hope would Mr Davis have of a fair trial?

Peter Woodhouse, Canberra

Poor choice of words

Could *The Canberra Times* please retire the archaic and offensive phrase "openly gay", which accompanied the recent reporting about ex-MLA Jonathan Davis? One never hears a public person described as "openly straight".

If someone's sexuality is of relevance, just describe them as gay (or whatever term they prefer). Using the prefix "openly" implies that there is something inherently brazen, sordid or shocking about a person not being in the closet about their sexuality, and has a whiff of homophobia.

It is especially galling as November is the month of Canberra's annual pride festival,

SpringOUT, celebrating "Australia's most LG-BTQIA+ friendly city."

Scott Humphries, Curtin

That's not living

Yes, you can live a "sustained" life in a 120 square metre house but it's not the life we should have to live.

We are meant to be the "bush capital" not a cramped metropolis. These decisions are why we need a new government. The Greens and Labor are killing Canberra.

I was born here 67 years ago and now don't enjoy my place of birth.

Michael Kennedy, Canberra

Misguided priorities

I was disappointed but not surprised to see the latest PR stunt by Barr and Gentleman who posed with a tiny house. Mick declared he "raised his family" in a small home.

They are both so very out of touch with reality.

I've written to Gentlemen as Policing Minister about the proliferation of inner suburban brothels in Canberra and growing crime rates which have tripled in Canberra over the past 10 years.

I have yet to receive any meaningful reply. Perhaps pollies would be better off solving important problems rather than posing for propaganda photo shoots.

Rachel Sirr, Gowrie

Zionism is not Judaism

It should be made clear that valid criticism of Zionist policies and practices is not anti-Semitism, as this point is specifically stated and reported by Jewish rabbis and scholars.

Anti-Zionism is not the same as anti-Semitism, although Zionist propaganda would want to claim this.

Israel is historically a result of the Zionist



Former ACT Greens MLA Johnathon Davis is entitled to the presumption of innocence.
File picture

nationalist movement and there are prominent Jewish rabbis around the world who openly express that Zionism and Judaism are enemies of each other.

Zionists famously can be atheist (eg Ben Gurion), whereas Judaism follows the tenets of their religious beliefs such as the 10 commandments (thou should not kill etc). Anti-Zionism is valid due to the illegal occupation of Palestinian territory and the oppression of Palestinians.

Anti-Semitism is directed to all Jews and their Jewishness and is a distinctly different issue.

This issue should not be confused by critics of Israeli/Hamas conflict.

Rozita Abdul, Woden

Stop persecuting McBride

What hypocrites our leaders have been in regards to David McBride.

For some time the government has been trying to get Julian Assange released back to Australia.

Julian Assange was a whistleblower, his "crime" was exposing the truth.

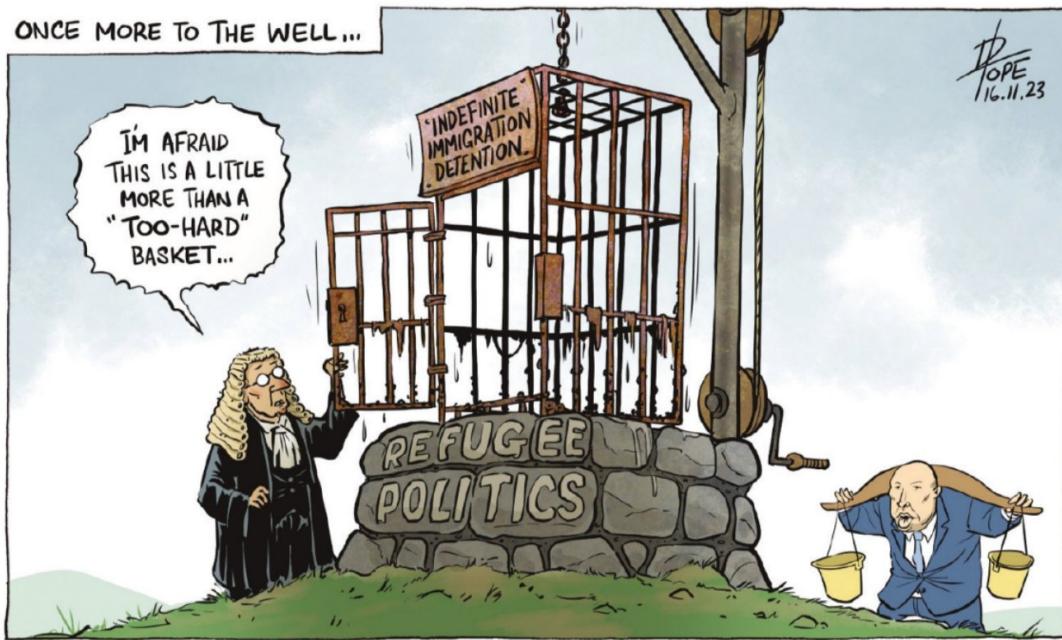
And now the government, more the Attorney-General, Mark Dreyfus, could step in and stop this trial against David McBride, for doing exactly the same thing - exposing the truth.

What chance does Julian Assange have given the government is taking David McBride to trial for being a whistleblower?

Penny Costello, Giralang

POPE'S VIEW

ONCE MORE TO THE WELL...

**Mortgages will only come down if the RBA cuts interest rates. But don't expect banks to pass on the full cut.**

Keith Hill, Canberra City

Drug reform sensible

Rachel Sirr (Letters, October 26) said drug decriminalisation was wrong and was done without prior consultation.

The reform is intended to ensure people who use drugs are offered the health services and support they may need while providing a pathway away from the criminal justice system.

The changes have been made following extensive consultation with and input from policy experts, local and national drug and alcohol sector advocates, service providers, ACT government directorates and ACT Policing.

Drug use is not being legalised. Drug use is not safe or encouraged, and police will confiscate illicit drugs if found on a person. It will be illegal for a person to drive with any level of illegal substances in their system. Dealing will be the focus of law enforcement.

Meg Bollen, Gungahlin

Is the ABC biased?

If Declan McGrath's assertion (Letters, November 13) that the ABC is disgracefully biased towards Hamas is true then why did ABC journalists hold a meeting over pro-Israeli bias and complain that the ABC was presenting the Israeli government's stance on the war?

Mr McGrath claimed: "Every ABC report on an Israeli air strike regurgitates Hamas spin, telling us how many children have been killed or injured, using exaggerated Hamas figures".

According to the World Health Organisation 160 children a day are dying. That's not Hamas spin. It's a fact that hospitals have been bombed. Even the Israeli military admits they're being targeted because they

claim Hamas uses them as covers for tunnels.

As the cliché goes truth is the first casualty in war. Requesting a ceasefire isn't being pro-Hamas.

It's completely untrue to suggest the ABC is biased towards Hamas; the staff clearly think otherwise.

The ABC can't win. In spite of being bullied into submission by the previous government and having its funding decimated via the farcically named "efficiency dividend" it's the best news service available.

Peter McLoughlin, Monash

Tax the poor

In Kambah good condition three-bedroom houses are consistently selling for around \$300,000 above the property block's unimproved value (UAV).

There's absolutely no way these houses could be rebuilt for anything like \$300,000.

Yet in Canberra's trendy inner suburbs buyers are regularly paying well over a million dollars above the UAV. They then knock down the house they just bought and build a new mega-mansion, often with large underground basements, gyms and wine cellars.

How can the ACT government be sure they are accurately calculating the genuine unimproved value of prime urban lots in amenity-rich locations where developers

can include a huge basement and underground parking?

How do those UAV calculations compare to those in the amenity-poor outer suburbs of Tuggeranong and Belconnen where property developers or wealthy homebuilders see no value in fancy knock down rebuilds?

Does this mean owners of properties in the poorer outer suburbs are unfairly subsidising richer inner suburbs through their rates?

B Jones, Kambah

What goes up stays up

The RBA's job is to reduce inflation, not prices. Once it's satisfied that inflation is under control and coming down, all that will mean is that prices have stopped increasing.

Mortgages will only come down if the RBA actually cuts interest rates. But even then don't expect the greedy banks to pass on the full cut like they do an increase and certainly not with the same rapidity.

Other price hikes imposed by supermarkets and the like are unlikely to be reversed either. They're too wedded to the super profits they've been making at our expense.

And yet when that golden age comes about and prices start skyrocketing, we'll all breathe a sigh of relief as the RBA indulges in a self-congratulatory victory lap.

The politicians will still have above inflation wage increases from their independent umpire (something ordinary workers don't benefit from) and CEOs will contemplate how to spend the huge bonuses awarded for resisting wage claims from overworked staff.

Qantas may even deign to fly all the flights it promised.

Keith Hill, Canberra City

HAVE YOUR SAY

Letters to the Editor should be kept to 250 or fewer words. To the Point letters should not exceed 50 words. Reference to *The Canberra Times* reports should include date and page number. Provide a phone number and address (only your suburb will be published). Email letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au with your letter in the message field.

Responsibility for election comment is taken by John-Paul Moloney of 121 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra. Published by Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Ltd.

HOWARD LIED

Was John Howard "correct" when he lied that asylum seekers had thrown their children overboard from boats (Letters, November 14)? Has he ever apologised for that appalling lie? Howard will be remembered as an early adopter of fake news.

Peter Marshall, Captains Flat, NSW

PREPARE FOR PEACE

At times like these, I am reminded of the timeless wisdom of Aristotle: "It is not enough to win a war; it is more important to organise the peace".

Angela Kueter-Luks, Bruce

RATES, ROADS AND CONDUCT

Wouldn't it be great if the Legislative Assembly paid as much attention to roads and potholes as they do to allegedly inappropriate behaviour by MLAs? I really appreciate the speed of response to the Davis issue, but hey what about the roads?

Steve Provins, Latham

HOW HOT IS TOO HOT?

John Howard stated that we could live with two degrees of warming and implied it wasn't much. The world is now at least 1.1 degrees warmer than at the start of the industrial revolution and we are lurching from one climate disaster after another. It could be said that Howard is in "cloud cuckoo land". (Letters, November 14).

Felicity Chivas, Ainslie

ORWELLIAN CONFERENCE

John Howard, Tony Abbott and Scott Morrison all attended a conference organised by the "Alliance for Responsible Citizenship". When I ran my irony meter over the Orwellian-sounding name of the organisation, it exploded.

Peter Marshall, Captains Flat, NSW

PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE?

The Labor and Liberal parties called for Johnathan Davis to resign on the basis of allegations. Do they believe in innocent until proven guilty? Until the facts are known, people should hold their fire.

Gary Fan, Reid

ELECTRIC BUSES THE GO

The billions being wasted on constructing tram lines would be better spent on a fleet of electric buses that can run on existing roads and provide a better service to the suburbs. The money saved could be used to build dedicated cycle tracks that would get cyclists off roads and away from walkers.

Brian Hanvin, Page

SOLAR FOR RENTERS?

Why does the ACT government provide a subsidy (the Home Energy Support Program) for those who own their homes, but not for those who rent their homes and who wish to install solar panels?

Bob Nairn, Page

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

If your feelings are stretched so tightly by Pauline Hanson's opinions Kellie Nissen (Letters, November 13), tighten them another notch and be thankful she and you are free to say what you think.

Bill Deane, Chapman

IT'S A FREE COUNTRY

While Kellie Nissen (Letters, November 13) expresses shame about Pauline Hanson's utterances, I am grateful that in this country we can still exchange opinions. Pauline Hanson is no fool, nor the worst senator by a long shot. At least she is passionate about Australia's future. That has to be a good sign surely.

Anthony Bruce, Gordon

OPINION

This Gaza peace plan needs backing



THE Gaza peace plan of Acting Prime Minister of Lebanon, Najib Mikati, has the right kind of tentative promise. Its first strength is that it comes from a country that has more to lose from an escalating war than any state, as its horrific 1980s civil war shows.

Ideas for agreements from stakeholders are better than hopes of US-brokered agreements. This is because the historical record shows that when US presidents broker high-profile agreements just before an election, their successor usually scuttles it. Better therefore if the West instead backs the Lebanese proposal.

The Lebanese pitch is for a five-day pause to fighting in Gaza. During these five days, Israel and Egypt would both open gates to flows of humanitarian assistance into Gaza. A significant number of hostages would be released the other way through these gates.

Then a sequenced architecture of commitment would be negotiated: you do X; if you deliver, we do Y; then you do Z, etc. In the Lebanese architecture, if the initial hostage releases are delivered, Israel will agree during those five rocket-free days to a swap of Palestinian hostages in Israel in return for all Israeli hostages in Gaza, as the next step.

Next, an international peace negotiation would be institutionalised. As *The Economist* says: "If it can get off the ground, Mikati's proposal would channel the worst violence Israelis and Palestinians have seen in decades into the most serious peace effort since the collapse of the Oslo Accords."

Mikati's pitch is that if this plan succeeded in producing a workable peace agreement, not only would Hamas voluntarily disarm, so would Hezbollah (in Lebanon). Mikati professes optimism about disarming both. He is



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Lebanese Acting Prime Minister Najib Mikati earlier this month. Picture AAP

aiming high. I like this because the evidence in my Peacebuilding Compared project is so far that (a) dozens of unsuccessful peace processes are needed before one is successful; and (b) some should aim breathtakingly high. That is because high ambitions inspire more parties to initial engagement with peace, even if many fall off later after ambitions are frustrated.

In this case, the breathtaking ambition is to disarm Hezbollah at the same time as Hamas so that the defence of the state of Lebanon could become a normalised national defence, instead of a Lebanon weakened politically and economically by one political

faction that controls military might.

Actually, Lebanon's proposal does not aim as high as Netanyahu's. If Israel really did succeed in "wiping out" Hamas (not that it would), it would almost certainly then have to "wipe out" Hezbollah, and that would be like the US, China and all the allied powers of World War II aiming to "wipe out" the Nazis, their army, and wipe out all Japanese troops as well.

Western powers learnt that outcomes can be bad from the hubris of ignoring the peace diplomacy of African presidents to secure a peaceful transition in Libya in 2011. The folly of former French president Nicolas Sarkozy's

and former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton's advocacy of the alternative of regime decapitation and a regime-change war instead spread Islamic State terror south from Libya across Africa. The world still has more terrorism than it had before the war in Libya and Iraq.

As of today, Hamas, President Biden and Prime Minister Netanyahu all at least seem to be moving in the direction of supporting the first Lebanese step of a five-day pause and substantial hostage releases. Let's keep listening to Lebanon and grow a wider peace.

■ John Braithwaite is an emeritus distinguished professor of the ANU.

Let's focus on securing the future of young Australians



FOR young people the COVID-19 pandemic is one of many disruptions defining a generation.

When the pandemic began, the youth labour market was upended, and education disrupted throughout much of Australia. Its impact could further have scarring effects of up to a decade for this generation of young Australians, the pandemic generation.

While we are still trying to understand the long-term impacts of the pandemic, our annual survey of Australians aged 18-24 for the Australian Youth Barometer provides some alarming insights.

This year, nearly all (97 per cent) survey respondents have at least one feeling of anxiety or pessimism.

Just under half (41 per cent) feel like they were missing out on being young. Many worry about their ability to live a happy and healthy life (41 per cent) or even to cope with everyday tasks in the future (41 per cent). Young people live in an age of disruption and insecurity, such as being able to afford a place to live.

While 61 per cent of young people nominated affordable housing options as a key concern in 2022, this year 70 per cent named affordable housing as an issue in need of

Young people live in an age of disruption and insecurity.

immediate action.

Where just under half (46 per cent) thought it was likely that they would be able to afford a place to live during the next year in 2022, this figure decreased to 35 per cent in 2023.

The percentage of those feeling that they will be able to purchase a property or house in the future also shrank from around half to 41 per cent this year.

Affordable housing and cost of living pressures are closely related. In both years, 90 per cent experienced financial difficulties at some point during the last 12 months, with around a third (32 per cent) reporting they did so often or very often in 2023.

The percentage of young Australians not having any form of investment or saving also increased in 2023.

More young Australians think they will be financially worse off than their parents (from 53 per cent in 2022 to 61 per cent in 2023).

While Australia is experiencing relatively high levels of employment, longer-term trends toward insecure, short term and



Young people, like most of us, seek security. Picture Shutterstock

sometimes precarious employment continue. Perhaps this in part explains why more than half of young Australians nominated employment opportunities as another key issue requiring immediate action in 2023.

Only half (52 per cent) feel that their education has prepared them for the future.

Meanwhile, the workforce continues to change at a pace. Some speculate that artificial intelligence (AI) could automate

as much as 18 per cent of work globally. According to the OECD, highly skilled occupations are at highest risk from AI-driven automation, comprising around 27 per cent of employment across the OECD's 38 member countries, including Australia. Equally, AI is likely to affect other existing jobs, prompting a need to rethink skills development.

A thread runs throughout our survey findings: insecurity. Young people, like most of us, seek security. Secure accommodation. Secure employment. Secure relationships. A secure planet.

And yet many of these seem to be increasingly out of reach or influence. Take global warming. While 42 per cent of young Australians nominate climate change as a key issue requiring immediate action, only 31 per cent believe that it is likely that climate change will be combated in the future.

While the challenges young people face might in concert seem overwhelming, these intersecting but discrete challenges can be addressed. We need responses specifically targeting where young people live, learn and work.

Our collective efforts must be directed towards securing the future of young Australians. This begins by fostering security in their present lives - not an easy task.

■ Professor Lucas Walsh is lead author of the 2023 Australian Youth Barometer and director of the Monash Centre for Youth Policy and Education Practice.

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Setting consists of a 165cm round dining table, six cushioned dining chairs and a lazy susan.

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We're driving up the wrong road

We need to rethink how we fund and build roads, and a recent decision creates an opportunity to do just that.

ADAM
TRIGGS



VICTORIA'S tax on electric vehicles and hybrids has been smacked down by the High Court, and it's a wonderful thing.

The tax was introduced in Victoria on July 1, 2021. It was a distance-based levy of 2.8 cents for every kilometre driven by an electric or hydrogen car, or 2.3 cents per kilometre for plug-in hybrid vehicles.

The logic behind the tax was simple.

Households with cars that have internal combustion engines pay about \$1200 in fuel taxes each year. Those who own hybrids pay dramatically less. Those who own electric cars pay exactly nothing.

This discrepancy, some argued, was unfair to those who drive combustion engines, and it almost certainly favoured rich people since they are the ones who can afford EVs and hybrids.

It also meant a huge chunk of revenue was missing from government coffers - a gap which is widening as more and more people ditch their Territory for a Tesla.

Sounds logical. So, what was wrong with the tax?

Regardless of whether you're a lawyer, an economist or an environmentalist, the policy was a dud.

Lawyers - which, it turned out, included a majority of the seven justices who sit on the High Court - didn't like it because it fell foul of our constitution.

The constitution bans state governments from imposing duties - a power which resides solely with the Commonwealth government.

The Victorian government hoped that the tax in question wouldn't constitute a "duty" under existing case law. The High Court disagreed.

Economists didn't like the tax because it screwed up the one thing economists care more about than anything: incentives.

Suggesting it's unfair to tax combustion engines and not electric vehicles is backwards logic. It's a bit like introducing a penalty for driving sober because it's unfair that only drunk people face a penalty.

The reason we have the penalty in the first place is because we are actively trying to discourage behaviour. In economics jargon, we want people to internalise the negative externalities (i.e. the negative spillovers) they are imposing on society.

Having a higher tax on combustion engines compared to electric vehicles is sensible economics, and environmentalists love it, too.

Luckily, the scrapping of this tax by the High Court creates an opportunity to get some meaningful reform done in one of the most important and most neglected areas of policy: road pricing.

"Road pricing" might not sound sexy, but if you've recently been stuck in traffic or have bought something online, you definitely care about it.

Our roads are a fundamental input into businesses-to-business transactions. With skyrocketing demand for online shopping, it's also a vital component for end-point



We shouldn't be taxing road use, we should be taxing road damage. Picture by Sitthixay Ditthavong

sales to consumers, too.

Roads are so important to our economy that even a small change in productivity will have huge benefits that will cascade throughout industries and sectors.

But the sad reality is that Australia's approach to roads is unfair, inefficient, unsustainable and ad hoc.

It's unfair because the amount you pay for the roads through registration fees and other taxes tends to bear little resemblance to how much damage you actually caused to the roads.

It's inefficient because we often create no incentives to drive outside of peak hour times and fail to properly fund road investments.

It's unsustainable because - like in Victoria - we fail to properly distinguish between heavy polluters and zero-polluters.

And it's ad hoc because there is often a tenuous relationship between where we invest in our roads and where that investment is desperately needed - hence the constant traffic jams.

The economics is clear - we shouldn't be taxing road use, we should be taxing road damage.

Heavier trucks travelling longer on roads that aren't built for them tear them up.

Trucks should pay more based on how heavy they are, what roads they drive on and how far they travel given that these determine how much damage they do.

Charging based on mass, distance and location has been on the agenda for over 30 years with little progress.

Similarly, cars choosing to drive during peak hours should pay more.

They clog the roads, harming others. Congestion charging would go close to funding

road networks on its own.

The money raised should be directly linked to road funding and, to minimise the costs to the public, inefficient taxes like registration fees should be reduced.

All of this is possible thanks to two things.

The first is technology. Earth observation data from satellites and remote sensing and tracking technologies mean that these pricing models are no longer science fiction. In fact, they are already being used in many big cities around the world.

The second thing that makes this possible is the High Court.

The High Court has called into question whether states have jurisdiction to impose these sorts of taxes at all, handing responsibility to the federal government. It means that cross-jurisdictional cooperation is no longer desirable, it's essential.

There's an old saying that if you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there.

Well, now is the time for the federal government to set a course.

Adam Triggs is a partner at the economics advisory firm, Mandala, a visiting fellow at the ANU Crawford School and a non-resident fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Suggesting it's unfair to tax combustion engines and not electric vehicles is backwards logic. It's a bit like introducing a penalty for driving sober because it's unfair that only drunk people face a penalty.

VW's ID.5 will need a competitive edge

Paul Maric

VOLKSWAGEN has a stack of electric vehicles headed to Australia over the coming years.

We tested the sporty dual-motor all-wheel drive 2024 Volkswagen ID.5 GTX in Germany along stretches of Autobahn, along with a run up and down Austria's highest mountain, the Grossglockner.

The ID.5 isn't expected to go on sale in Australia until mid-2024 and Volkswagen is adamant it will go head-to-head with Tesla Model Y pricing.

That could mean an entry-level starting price of around \$67,000 before on-road costs for the entry-level rear-wheel drive model, climbing to around \$80,000 for the sporty ID.5 GTX tested here.

Complicating things slightly - Volkswagen is expected to update the ID.4 and ID.5 with new motors before they drop in Australia, so there's a chance performance may improve and exceed that of competitors.

There is a reasonable amount of space inside the ID.5's cabin. Leg and headroom in the second row is good, but headroom can be a little compromised due to the swooping roofline of the second row.

There's plenty of storage up front. There's extensive use of LED backlighting throughout the cabin, along with a head-up display that includes an augmented reality function to assist with navigation prompts.

One of my favourite features is a small display ahead of the driver that details things like speed, range and trip information. It's a simple, but effective way of removing the need to twist your head to review the contents of the central screen.

Speaking of the central screen, both it and the centre console are clad with piano black material. It's hard to keep clean and scratches easily, bringing the look and feel of the cabin down.

The infotainment touchscreen is a 12.0-inch display that includes wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, along with inbuilt satellite navigation. It's let down by the use of slider controls for things like volume and climate controls.

The touch-sensitive haptic feedback steering controls on the steering wheel are also hard to use and easily triggered unintentionally when driving.

Cargo capacity comes in at 549 litres with the second row in place, and expands to 1561 litres with the second row folded.

You expect an electric vehicle to be quiet and the ID.5 glides along quietly with very little road and motor noise entering



Volkswagen's ID.5 will compete against established EV brands like Hyundai, Kia and Tesla, which already have strongholds on the segment.

the cabin.

With 460Nm of torque available, acceleration is reasonably good for a mid-sized SUV. The upgraded drivetrain coming soon to the ID.5 GTX is expected to help sharpen that feeling behind the wheel.

Our drive had us covering a section of derestricted Autobahn where we were able to reach the top speed of 180km/h without too much effort. The ID.5 stuck pretty close to the road and didn't get the floaty feeling some larger SUVs get when they hit terminal velocity.

Volkswagen claims to have improved the ride in the latest ID.5 revision, as well as more precise handling.

We didn't think there was anything overly wrong with the adaptively damped setup in the ID.5 GTX, keeping in mind the roads we drove were predominantly smooth.

It doesn't handle as sharply as something like a Model Y or EV6, and features a much softer tune setup for comfort.

As a result, sharper corners introduce friction limits from the tyres and a degree of

KEY DETAILS

2024 Volkswagen ID.5

- Price: TBA
- Motors: Front and rear
- Power: 220kW
- Torque: Combined 460Nm (split 162/310Nm between front and rear axles)
- Energy use: 17.1kWh/100km
- Driving range: 490km on the WLTP cycle

body roll. Not the end of the world, given it's not really billed as a super sporty vehicle.

One thing that did frustrate was the lack of a single-pedal drive mode.

You can enter the vehicle's 'B' setting, which increases the amount of regen, but it doesn't slow the vehicle to a stop or vary its level of regen enough to rely on it as the only pedal you use to drive.

Visibility out the front and sides is good, but a little compromised out the rear thanks

to the narrow envelope out the rear window.

On safety, it scored a five star crash rating in Euro NCAP testing back in 2021. It scored a 93 per cent adult occupant protection rating, an 89 per cent child occupant protection rating, a 76 per cent vulnerable road user rating and a 85 per cent safety assist rating.

Standard safety tech includes autonomous emergency braking with pedestrian and cyclist detection, radar cruise control, blind spot monitoring, rear cross-traffic alert, front and rear parking sensors, as well as reverse AEB.

Overall, while we were pretty impressed with the packaging of the ID.3 in general, the ID.5 GTX feels a little less impressive. It lacks the punch of its peers, and the interior presentation feels like a step back from the futuristic styling of Ioniq 5 and EV6 and the tech-laden Model Y.

Volkswagen will need to sharpen the drivetrain and pricing ahead of the ID.5's arrival to Australia, especially if it wants to compete with brands like Hyundai, Kia and Tesla, which already have strongholds.

Mazda to only sell hybrids and EVs in Australia by 2030

Jack Quick

MAZDA Australia has detailed its new electrification roadmap that will see all of its vehicles be hybrid, plug-in hybrid (PHEV), or battery electric (BEV) by 2030.

The company also expects at this point BEVs will account for at least 25 per cent of its line-up.

This news comes as Mazda Australia discontinues the mild-hybrid and all-electric MX-30, as well as the petrol- and diesel-powered CX-8 in one fell swoop.

Over the last few months the company has also been axing all the mild-hybrid versions of its 3 hatch and sedan and CX-30 crossover line-ups locally. All diesel versions of the CX-5 have been axed in Australia too.

The company says the axing of the CX-8 and MX-30 "aligns with this future strategy, freeing up valuable resources at Mazda Corporation to assist with the transition".

As part of its revised "mid-term management plan" announced in 2022, Mazda intends to invest \$A16 billion to develop EVs as part of a three-phase strategy.

The company is expecting EVs to account for between 25 to 40 per cent of its global sales by 2030.

"As we move into the next phase of the Mazda brand's evolution - with electrification at the heart of our focus - we will ensure our valued customers continue to be well-furnished with a suite of exciting models to join us on this journey," said Mazda Australia managing director Vinesh Bhindi.

Mr Bhindi also reiterated the company's plans for an electrified onslaught around 2024-25, including a mix of hybrids, PHEVs and BEVs across three key product architectures that also include the latest developments of the brand's existing petrol, diesel and more recent rotary offerings.

The company has previously confirmed it will launch five hybrid, five plug-in hybrid and three pure electric models or variants globally between 2022 and 2025, using the SkyActiv Multi-Solution Scalable Architecture that supports both front-wheel drive models with a transverse engine layout and rear-wheel drive cars with a longitudinal engine setup.

This year Mazda Australia introduced the CX-60 two-row large premium SUV that's

available with two mild-hybrid powertrains, as well as a plug-in hybrid powertrain.

The larger three-row CX-90 joined the local line-up a few months later and for now is exclusively powered by retuned versions of the same inline-six mild-hybrid powertrains as the CX-60.

A plug-in hybrid is set to join the range in 2024.

Beyond this, the company has previously confirmed the yet-to-be-revealed CX-80 will be coming to Australia. Its Japanese release was recently reportedly delayed until early 2024.

The CX-80 will form as the third SUV in a quartet of SUVs based on Mazda's new rear-/all-wheel drive Large Architecture.

Flight Centre chief fires off at King

FLIGHT Centre expects travellers to benefit from improved airline capacity and competition bringing down airfares but remains concerned about an ongoing lack of seats on planes between Australia and Europe.

The travel agency on Wednesday reported a 38 per cent jump in revenue and a 20 per cent lift in total transaction revenue for the first quarter, representing an 11.2 per cent improvement in revenue margin.

The company saw "positive signs in relation to market dynamics" but there was still room for improvement. "One of the biggest impediments

to recovery so far has been the lack of airline capacity and competition," chief executive Graham 'Skroo' Turner told the company's annual general meeting.

"This was particularly relevant with the rejection by the Albanese government of the extra 28 flights that Qatar wanted to bring in. This means the government has deliberately tried to keep airfares high. We don't know why, but I know in the travel industry the Transport Minister (Catherine) King is now known as the 'minister for higher airfares'."

Mr Turner said conditions were gradually improving

I know ... Transport Minister (Catherine) King is now known as the 'minister for higher airfares'.

Graham Turner, Flight Centre chief executive

but the company was still struggling to find seats for customers, particularly to Europe through the Middle East. "Qantas, Emirates and Etihad in the UAE are only using about half their allocated seats in Australia, which is obviously again keeping air fares very high," Mr Turner said, with capacity through the Middle East

still only about 60 per cent of what is needed.

International Air Transport Association data indicated capacity in Australia had recovered to about 88 per cent at the end of last month, with further growth expected as Singapore Airlines, Emirates, Qantas and Cathay Pacific ramp up services, Mr Turner said. "We

welcome further additions and strongly support the Turkish Airlines application, which is in train at the moment we believe, and obviously Qatar's expansion plans," he said.

The company reported a first quarter underlying profit before tax of \$54 million, up from a \$12.9 million loss in the prior corresponding period, at an underlying profit margin of just under one per cent.

Flight Centre expects underlying profit before tax between \$270 million and \$310 million for the financial year, slightly lower than analyst consensus estimates.

Chinese trade bans could be lifted by Christmas: Farrell

PUNITIVE trade sanctions imposed on Australian exports by China may be gone in time for Christmas.

Beijing slapped sanctions worth \$20 billion on Australian products during the height of diplomatic tensions in 2020.

Only \$2 billion worth of sanctions remain on certain exports, including rock lobster and beef.

Trade Minister Don Farrell met with his Chinese counterpart Wang Wentao earlier this month in China.

Senator Farrell had another meeting with Mr Wang on Wednesday to discuss the trade issues.

"I remain very confident, based on my meeting last week and hopefully my meeting today, that by Christmas all of these trade impediments will be removed," he told reporters on Wednesday morning.

"We will have restored that stable relationship that we want with our largest trading partner."

The Trade Minister denies there will be any quid pro



Beijing slapped sanctions worth \$20 billion on Australian products during the height of diplomatic tensions in 2020.
Picture AAP

quo for lobster and beef with Beijing lobbying Canberra to drop tariffs on its steel.

Beijing is also reviewing bans on Australian wine worth \$1.2 billion through a five-month process after

Canberra agreed to suspend a dispute it had lodged with the World Trade Organisation.

Senator Farrell accompanied Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to Chi-

na last month, when the pair attended the China International Import Expo in Shanghai alongside Mr Albanese for his efforts in steering it "on the right path of improvement and development".

The two nations are

working to stabilise the relationship, with Chinese President Xi Jinping praising Mr Albanese for his efforts in steering it "on the right path of improvement and development".

Aussie shares rally as US inflation eases

THE Australian sharemarket has posted its best performance in four months after US inflation data came in weaker than expected, supporting the view the Federal Reserve's aggressive rate hiking cycle is over.

The benchmark S&P/ASX200 index on Wednesday finished up 99.2 points, or 1.42 per cent, to an eight-week high of 7105.9, while the broader All Ordinaries gained 109.6 points, or 1.52 per cent, to 7316.7.

US inflation came in slightly softer than expected,

with core consumer prices rising 4 per cent in the year to October, from 4.1 per cent from in September. GSFM investment strategist Stephen Miller said the readout suggested the US rate-hiking cycle was in abeyance, probably indefinitely.

While there was still one more monthly consumer price readout before the Federal Reserve meets in December, it was difficult to see a number that would cause the Fed to enact a rate hike at its final meeting for 2023, Mr Miller said.

Closer to home, the Australian Bureau of Statistics on Wednesday reported wages rose 1.3 per cent in the September quarter - the highest quarterly growth in the 26-year history of the wage price index.

But ANZ economists Catherine Birch and Madeline Dunk said the record growth was widely expected and given that it was partly driven by temporary factors, the data would not concern the Reserve Bank as much as might be expected.

Every sector except

energy finished higher, with property the biggest gainer, rising 4.8 per cent as GPT Group added 6.9 per cent and Stockland lifted 6.1 per cent. The heavyweight mining sector rose 2.4 per cent, with BHP up 1.8 per cent to \$46.84, Fortescue rising 3.5 per cent to \$25.18 and Rio Tinto advancing 2.6 per cent to \$125.61.

The Big Four banks were mostly higher, with ANZ up 1 per cent to \$25.01, Westpac advancing 0.7 per cent to \$21.15 and NAB gaining 0.4 per cent to \$28.08.

Aristocrat in profit jackpot

ARISTOCRAT Leisure has posted a 13 per cent jump in full-year profit, excluding the impact of currency fluctuations, as the poker machine manufacturer continued its diversification into mobile games. Aristocrat on Wednesday said it made \$1.3 billion in profit for the 12 months to September 30, up 21 per cent from the year before without the adjustments for changes in currency. "I'm proud of the high-quality result that

we are announcing," chief executive and managing director Trevor Croker said. Group revenue increased to \$6.3 billion, up 13 per cent in reporting terms and 7 per cent in constant currency terms. Aristocrat said revenue for its Pixel United mobile games unit dropped 3.9 per cent in the year to \$US1.8 billion (\$2.8 billion), but stabilised over the year. Aristocrat hopes to close on its \$1.8 billion acquisition of NeoGames in the first half of 2024.

MARKET WATCH

THE DOLLAR

	BUYING	SELLING
USD	0.669	0.628
GBP	0.537	0.502
EUR	0.617	0.577
JPY	100.85	94.48
NZD	1.111	1.052

COMMODITIES

	CURRENT	MOVE
Gold US\$/o	1962.674	+16.784
Oil	82.43	-0.32

TOP 10 BY VALUE

	STRADED	CLOSE
BHP Group	427,930,354	46.84
Macquarie Grp	346,170,514	168.12
CBA	319,752,354	102.15
ANZ Banking	282,086,013	25.01
Rio Tinto	245,273,482	125.61
Origin Energy	243,765,314	8.57
Fortescue Met	218,511,840	25.18
CSL	215,961,110	260.55
Nat Aust Bank	179,829,600	28.08
PilbaraMin	170,706,838	3.67

KEY STOCKS

	LAST	MOVE
AMP	1.015	+0.005
ANZ	25.01	+.25
BHP Group	46.84	+.82
CBA	102.15	-.13
NAB	28.08	+.11
News Corp	33.71	+.18
Rio Tinto	125.61	+3.12
Telstra	3.83	-.04
Westpac	21.15	+.14
Woolworths	35.65	-.06

WORLD MARKETS

	LAST	MOVE
S&P/ASX200	7105.9	+99.20
All Ords	7316.7	+109.60
Dow Jones	34,827.7	+489.83
NASDAQ	13,767.74	-30.37
S&P500	4411.55	-3.69
NIKKEI225	33,519.7	+823.77
NZSE 50	11,352.84	+179.56

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Homegrown talent pops this Christmas

POP CANBERRA

IN THE countdown to Christmas, Canberrans are being encouraged to shop local.

As the gift giving season approaches, local retail playground POP Canberra is the place to go. It's home to over 250 Canberra region makers, and shows how shopping local and supporting these makers can make a real difference to their lives.

POP Canberra's Founder, Gabe Trew, says over the past five years, POP has supported over 800 small businesses who have together made an estimated \$5 million through selling with POP.

The ultimate goal of course is to support local makers and creators, and when people buy their products they are supporting a genuine small maker, artist or creator, from many different age groups, backgrounds and walks of life.

"When we choose to shop local, we're not merely engaging in a transaction, we're weaving a meaningful narrative in the heart of our community. We're embracing makers, artists, dreamers, and entrepreneurs who pour their heart and soul into everything they do," said Gabe Trew, Founder of POP Canberra.

"Each local purchase is both a nod to tradition and a hope for the future, ensuring that we retain our artistic spirit.

"Canberra has a strong beating heart of small businesses and inspiring creatives in

each corner of every suburb," he said.

"Supporting local is showing a commitment to the soul of our community and allowing Canberra to continue being a national leader of small business and creative industry."

One local maker POP Canberra has supported over the past year demonstrates just how much of a big impact being supported by the local community can have. Amanda Stevens is a local Canberra Region jewellery maker who credits POP Canberra to helping her sustain her business, 'LLL Designs', through a really difficult time in her life.

Living with a chronic illness, Amanda creates her own earrings from her home and is passionate about making something really unique for the local community. Amanda makes one of a kind, fun, happy and eye-catching earrings and specialty items. She says she was able to make it through several hardships and health battles last year with the support of the local community, and being able to make a living out of creating and selling through POP Canberra without having to do any 'front of house' work.

"POP Canberra's support has been vital to keeping LLL Designs afloat while I closed my online shop to focus on recovering from severe illness. I look forward to seeing my business grow further with POP Canberra" said Amanda.



Everything within POP Canberra is dreamt up, designed and made by someone in Canberra. Picture Supplied

"Shopping local is investing in your own backyard. Every local purchase boosts the Canberra ecosystem, ensuring money circulates closer to home, strengthening the very foundation of our small business community. It's not just about the immediate sales, it's about creating a resilient, sustainable, and vibrant local economy," said Gabe.

"By choosing to support local businesses, we foster innovation, we allow for diversity in skills, and keep the decision-making power within our community. Shopping local

isn't just a purchase. It's a strategic investment in the future of our local community," Gabe concluded.

POP Canberra is located at 27 Lonsdale Street, Braddon. It is open every day including late night shopping from Thursday to Saturday. From December 1 - 24, POP is open from 7am until 10pm.

Customers can also buy locally made POP goodies online with the POP Shop Local app, available for download now. For more information visit www.popcanberra.com.au.

SHOP LOCAL THIS CHRISTMAS WITH GIFTS FROM OVER 250 LOCAL MAKERS.

- 2500 earrings
- 45 wineries and distilleries
- 160 artists and illustrators
- Ceramics, homewares, chocolates and more

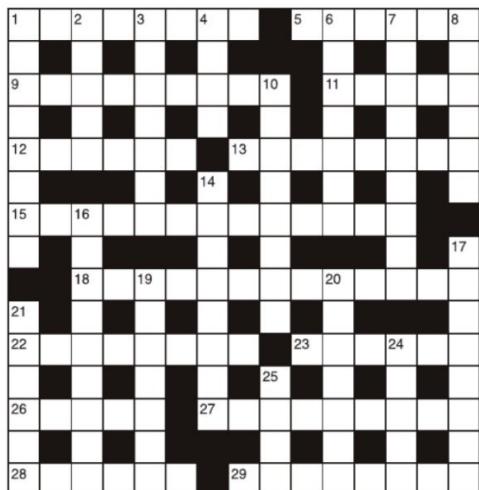


**OPEN LATE + EXTENDED OPENING HOURS 7AM - 10PM 1-24 DECEMBER
27 LONSDALE STREET, BRADDON | WWW.POPCANBERRA.COM.AU**

ENGLISH CRYPTIC CROSSWORD 30,586

ACROSS

- Strike engulfing university provided opportunity finally for Grace (8)
- Friends role some egomaniac in Omaha rejected? (6)
- Hat turned round actor Timothy wore ultimately (9)
- German product son pawns (5)
- Bookie's client now recovered from illness (6)
- Loaded waste differently at first (8)
- Bird eagle can rob so cunningly (8-5)
- Agitated dreading test, I went to pieces (13)
- Excited in anticipation of something 12 will have? (8)
- Left many heading west over river for walk (6)
- Variety of peeled fruits... (5)
- ...fruit that's brown and green cultivated across Italy (9)
- Swimmer needs time during dependency treatment to reflect (6)
- Telegraph piece unread by its subject? (8)



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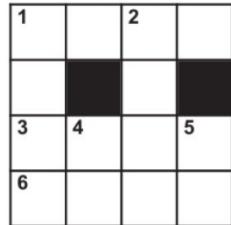
- Current Pope, harsh? (9)
- Agrees to dispose of new property (6)
- Endlessly deny describing good Europeans as asylum seekers (8)
- Singer James is in France, getting most outspoken (8)
- Mars employee's start in factory, succeeding Ruby, say (3,6)
- Lady true about reason for divorce (8)
- Expression of defiance from drunk present (2,5)
- Give ground shelter (7)

- Unknown flier briefly seen crossing area in capital (6)
- Board requiring agreement from both Paris and Munich (5)
- Upside-down cakes and squash (4)

DOWN

- Animal hubby's trained to eat bran regularly... (8)
- ...notice last month becoming fully grown (5)
- A little concert here, Saturday in May perhaps (7)
- Chance of charity event being broadcast (4)
- Play the cello, leaving church after orchestra's leader (7)

TINY CROSS 1117

**ACROSS**

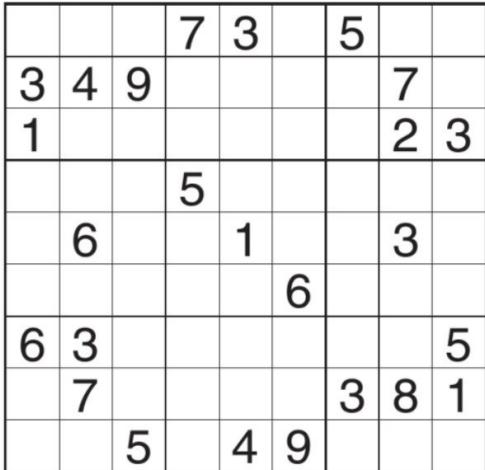
- Elevator (4)
- Matured (4)
- Water sport (4)

DOWN

- Ballet move (4)
- Experience (4)
- Depart (2)
- Execute (2)

SUDOKU 124

You are given a 9x9 grid which has been divided up into nine 3x3 boxes. The aim of the game is very simple: to fill each row, column and 3x3 box with the numbers from 1 to 9 inclusive. Level of difficulty: Hard

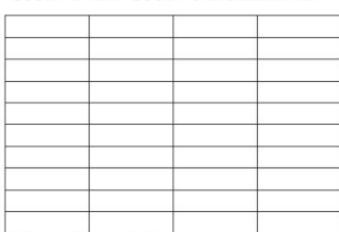


9-LETTER 034



Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural/verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET:
GOOD: 12 VERY GOOD: 15 EXCELLENT: 22+



Reference: Macquarie Dictionary.

WORDFIND Theme: Pop Artists

The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

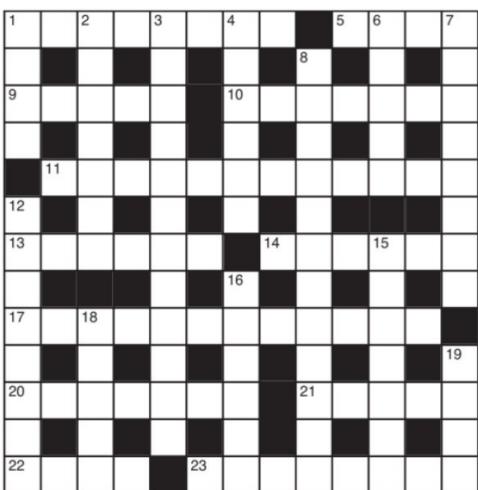
A	S	I	N	A	T	R	A	D	U	A	I	P	A	
N	L	I	F	E	S	L	L	U	B	T	I	P	T	O
N	E	D	N	A	R	G	A	N	A	I	R	A	Z	H
O	J	A	N	I	M	I	K	C	I	N	Y	Z	D	S
D	F	D	L	U	D	A	C	R	I	S	I	R	S	I
A	E	J	B	L	N	E	H	S	O	L	A	I	E	L
M	R	K	E	Y	P	F	T	S	H	K	V	S	L	I
E	G	H	E	C	J	I	L	R	E	L	I	H	R	E
E	I	A	G	M	A	N	O	E	K	E	A	A	E	
I	E	L	E	C	R	Y	K	R	C	H	K	H	I	
W	L	E	E	A	N	D	Z	N	D	I	C	L		
O	E	D	S	F	A	M	I	C	H	E	R	Y	L	
B	D	N	K	E	W	R	M	B	O	U	A	A	I	
S	A	S	R	A	E	P	S	Y	E	N	T	I	R	B
C	O	L	D	P	L	A	Y	B	E	A	T	L	E	S

ADELE	BILLIE EILISH	CHER
ARIANA GRANDE	BOWIE	COLDPLAY
BEATLES	BRITNEY SPEARS	DJ KHALED
BEE GEES	CARDI B	DRAKE

GEMINI CRYPTIC CROSSWORD 10,443

ACROSS

- Emancipated worker's carte blanche (4,4)
- Examination success for soft-headed dunce (4)
- Close to home call about nothing unusual (5)
- He increases the strain (7)
- Based on an earlier design (12)
- Make successful use of the clues (6)
- Support the Spanish cast (6)
- More than mean (5,7)
- Add one's ringing tones to the conversation? (5,2)
- Be losing track? (5)
- Assume the point is agreed? (4)
- Mentally ill – needs a change of routine before cure starts (8)

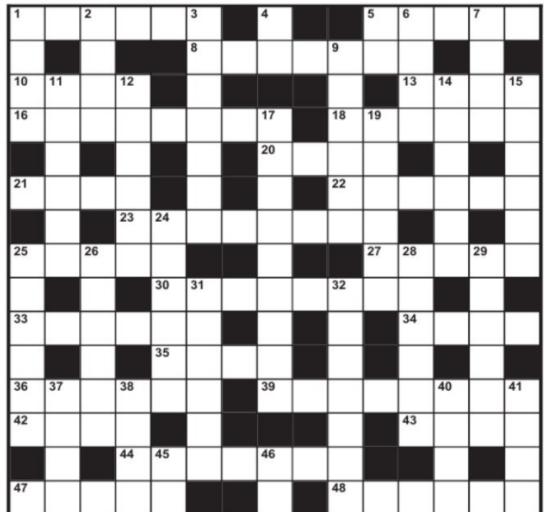


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5X5 Insert the missing letters to make 10 words – five reading across the grid and five reading down.

C	O	S
A	E	
O	O	E
O	S	
S	R	R

QUICK CROSSWORD 292



ACROSS

- Edible entrails (4,3)
- A fuss (3-2)
- Uncovered (5)
- Well above ground (10)
- Light beige colour (13)
- Voided (16)
- Problems (18)
- Border (20)
- Fibber (21)
- Body of work (22)
- Wealthy (23)
- Japanese delicacy (25)
- God of the underworld (27)
- DOWN**
- Fashionable (33)
- Dog command (34)
- Abel's brother (35)
- Request (3,3)
- Summer outfit (39)
- Ugly landmark (44)
- Japanese city (47)
- Send again (48)
- Laughter in text (2-2)
- Symbol (2)
- Reprimand (4,3)
- 2009 Pixar film (4)
- Male pronoun (5)
- Poems (6)
- Engage (7)
- Ho Chi Minh City, formerly instead (9)
- Cry of triumph (12)
- Arched (14)
- Aisle escorts (15)
- False beliefs (17)
- Fume (19)
- Failure (24)
- Ballroom dances (25)

CROSSMATHS 124

Insert each number from 1 to 9 in the shaded squares to solve all the horizontal and vertical equations.

Multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

+		+	=	9
×		×	=	
	+		=	71
×		-	=	
	÷	-	=	1
=	=	=	=	
108	27	6		

ABOUT TOWN



Rachel Fagyas from Turner, Xavier Arabian from Phillip and Joshua del Prado from Turner.



Alicia Flood, Jenni Flood and Chris Flood from Holt.



Millie Jeffs from Kaleen and Anna Rice from Macgregor.



Rob Wiggins and Lisa Smith from Higgins.

Running for fun and charity

Under cloudy skies runners moved past Canberra's iconic lakeside monuments for the 2023 Canberra Times Fun Run. The absence of a glaring spring sun made for perfect running conditions. Regardless of how fast or slow, long or short participants ran (or walked!), they were greeted with cheers, cups of water, a medal and optional crisp Capital Brewing pale ale at the finish line.



Daniela Mendes from Googong, Sianan Scrivner from Tuggeranong and Shannon Whitney from Googong.



Christopher Burton from Duffy and Felissa Burton from Coombs.

TRIVIA QUIZ

Compiled by Jean McLoughlin

- What type of creature is a Shiba Inu?
- What colour is the skin of a polar bear?
- In which city did Yasser Arafat die?
- What heavenly body did the Inca god Inti represent?
- What was the last Disney movie made in Walt Disney's lifetime?
- In which decade of the 20th century was the Tamagotchi launched?
- Which cosmetics range uses the slogan 'Because you're worth it'?
- What is the science of growing plants using liquids but no soil?
- What poker hand consists of three of a kind and a pair?
- Si is the chemical symbol for which element?

TODAY'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU

2	8	6	7	3	4	5	1	9
3	4	9	1	5	2	8	7	6
1	5	7	6	9	8	4	2	3
4	2	1	5	8	3	6	9	7
5	6	8	9	1	7	2	3	4
7	9	3	4	2	6	1	5	8
6	3	2	8	7	1	9	4	5
9	7	4	2	6	5	3	8	1
8	1	5	3	4	9	7	6	2

CROSSMATH

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 2 & + & 4 & + & 3 = 9 \\ \times & & \times & & + \\ 9 & \times & 7 & + & 8 = 71 \\ \times & & - & & - \\ 6 & + & 1 & - & 5 = 1 \\ = & & = & & = \\ 108 & & 27 & & 6 \end{array}$$

TRIVIA QUIZ

ENGLISH CRYPTIC

BEAUTIFY MONICA
UD HAT TNS
SOWWESTER HOCKS
HLREE EEL
BETTER AFFLUENT
ASBULLMS
BARNACLE GOOSE
YEUE N A
DISINTEGRATED
ZPOTS E
AFLUTTER STROLL
GASHSSRUT
RANGE TANGERINE
EERUAJ
BATHER OBITUARY

QUICK CROSSWORD

HASLET U HOOHA
AJI EXPOSED I
HIGH L A ECRU
ANNULLED ISSUES
LEROEDGE RPH
LIARFL DEUVRE
EAFFLUENT EER
SUSHIS S HADES
AUACHILLES S V
MODISH OAHEEL
BOCAIN UON
ASKFOR SUNDRESS
SLURG DDETTON
AEYESORE CCA
KYOTO RRESHIP

GEMINI CRYPTIC

FREEHAND PASS
EXOOLUT
LOCAL BREEDER
TEYOTIA
PREMEDITATED
APAYE
DETECT PROPEL
VKEWAWE
ABOVEAVVERAGE
NNRRIEAE
CHIMEINTAIL
EOLCENE
DONENEUROTIC

5X5

CROSS LIFT
LADEN E
OZONE E
DOUSE AGED
SOREL POLO

WORDFIND

SINATRADUALIPA
NLIFESLUBLTIP
NEDNARGANAIRAZ
QJANIMKACINYZOS
DPLUDLURRID
AEBBLNEHSOQUEL
WKPFISHWASL
EGHECONCRETHRE
ELAGMANANDEEA
BILLECERTORPKHHL
WLEANNEDDIDCLL
OEDSFAMIDERYL
BDNKNEEDOMUAI
SASRAEPSNTIN
COLDPLABEATLES

9-LETTER

abelia, able, alive, AVAILABLE, bale, bell, bale, evil, label, labile, lave, leal, liable, libel, livable, live, vale, veal, veil, vela, viable, vibe, vile

Secret message:
Lifestyles of the rich and famous

HOROSCOPES

with ALISON MORONEY

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astrologer@alisonmoroney.com

SCORPIO

(OCT 23-NOV 21)

Things don't seem to go your way during November 16-21 so, for now, avoid challenging those in a position of authority over you. Problems may also arise with work or health.

AQUARIUS

(JAN 20-FEB 18)

You will be making your opinions heard, in no uncertain terms, during November 16-21. Encounters may be fiery and public, but your prospects for success are excellent.

TAURUS

(APR 20-MAY 20)

November 16-21 are a few hard days when you will be required to invest all your efforts into finishing a job or dealing with problems. You may be cleaning up a mess.

LEO

(JUL 23-AUG 22)

November 16-21 are fortunate days, whether you receive some great news, achieve a fine academic result or legal victory or go places you want to visit.

VIRGO

(AUG 23-SEP 22)

You need to be vigilant in your financial dealings during November 16-21, as the potential for problems exist. Review your budgets, and follow up on money owing.

GEMINI

(MAY 21-JUN 20)

Your thoughts, plans and activities tend to focus on a romance, child or hobby during November 16-21. There's a fair bit of work involved, but you get it done.

PISCES

(FEB 19-MAR 20)

There appears to be a touch of aggravation around you during November 16-21, as you deal with financial issues such as loans, taxation, insurance, wills, legacies or income.

CAPRICORN

(DEC 22-JAN 19)

You may be left feeling a little embarrassed following the events of November 16-21, as a personal goal may fail, an investment performs badly, or problems arise with a friend.

ARIES

(MAR 21-APR 19)

You are infused with the energy of life during November 16-21, as you feel that nothing can go wrong. You are more open to risk-taking and will rise to any challenge.

CANCER

(JUN 21-JUL 22)

Your home is a hive of activity during November 16-21 as you are motivated to improve this facet of your life. As a result, money is likely to be spent on enjoyment or improvements.

LIBRA

(SEP 23-OCT 22)

You tend to be unusually forceful in all your dealings during November 16-21, as you are motivated by the scent of achievement and the prospect of a heavy wallet.

SCORPIO

(NOV 22-DEC 19)

You prospects for success are brilliant during November 16-21, evidenced in the achievement of a goal. You tend to reap good dividends in your investments too.

ZITS



TV GUIDE**THURSDAY, November 16**

ABC TV (CH 2, 20)	SBS (CH 3, 30)	SEVEN (CH 6)	NINE (CH 8, 80)	TEN (CH 5)
6.00 News Breakfast. 9.00 ABC News Mornings. 9.55 Australian Story. (R) 10.30 That Pacific Sports Show. (R) 11.00 Planet America. (R) 11.30 Rosie Batty's One Plus One. (R) 12.00 ABC News At Noon. 12.55 Better Date Than Never. (PG, R) 1.30 Question Everything. (R) 2.00 Parliament Question Time. 3.10 Gardening Australia. (R) 4.10 All Creatures Great And Small. (PG, R) 4.55 Back Roads. (R) 5.30 Hard Quiz. (PG, R)	6.00 WorldWatch. 7.30 France 24 English News. 8.00 DD India Prime Time News. 9.00 Home Is Where The Art Is. 9.55 Victorian House Of Arts And Crafts. 11.05 Great Canal Journeys. 12.00 BBC News At Ten. 12.30 ABC World News Tonight With David Muir. 1.00 PBS NewsHour. 2.00 Dare To Hope. 3.15 Mastermind Australia. (R) 3.45 The Cook Up With Adam Liaw. (R) 4.15 Secret Scotland. (PGa, R) 5.05 Jeopardy! (R) 5.30 Letters And Numbers. (R)	6.00 Sunrise. 9.30 The Morning Show. (PG) 11.30 Seven Morning News. 12.00 MOVIE Jesse Stone: Innocents Lost. Tom Selleck. A former cop looks into the death of a girl. (2011, Mav, R) 2.00 Kochie's Business Builders. 2.30 Australia's Deadliest. A man is infected by a flesh-eating disease. (PG, R) 3.00 The Chase. (R) 4.00 Seven News At 4. 5.00 The Chase Australia. Hosted by Larry Emdur.	6.00 Today. 9.00 Today Extra. A mix of topical issues. (PG) 11.30 Morning News. 12.00 MOVIE The Christmas Setup. Ben Lewis. A lawyer returns home for Christmas. (2020, PG) 2.00 Pointless. Presented by Alexander Armstrong. (PG, R) 3.00 Tipping Point. Hosted by Ben Shephard. (PG, R) 4.00 Afternoon News. 4.30 Millionaire Hot Seat. Hosted by Eddie McGuire. 5.30 WIN News.	6.00 The Talk. (PGa) 7.00 Everyday Gourmet With Justine Schofield. 7.30 Entertainment Tonight. 8.00 Farm To Fork. 8.30 Judge Judy. (PG) 9.00 The Bold And The Beautiful. (PGa) 9.30 Neighbours. (PGa) 10.00 Studio 10. (PG) 12.00 10 News First: Midday. 1.00 Dr Phil. (Mad, R) 2.00 To Be Advised. 3.10 Entertainment Tonight. 3.30 Farm To Fork. 4.00 Neighbours. (PGa) 4.30 The Bold And The Beautiful. (PGa) 5.00 10 News First.
6.00 The Drum. Analysis of the day's news. 7.00 ABC News. A look at the top stories of the day. 7.30 7.30 . Presented by Sarah Ferguson. 8.00 Bill Bailey's Wild West Australia: Far South. Part 1 of 4. (PG) 8.50 Grand Designs: Huxham. Kevin McCloud meets a couple constructing a family home inspired by the local landscape. (MI, R) 9.40 Miriam Margolyes: Australia Unmasked. Part 3 of 3. (Mln, R) 10.40 ABC Late News. Coverage of the day's events. 10.55 The Business. (R) 11.10 Rose Gold. (MI, R) 12.35 Parliament Question Time. 1.35 Q+A. (R) 2.40 Rage. (MA15+adlinsv) 4.00 Barrie Cassidy's One Plus One. (R) 4.30 The Drum. (R) 5.30 7.30 . (R)	6.00 Mastermind Australia. Presented by Marc Fennell. (R) 6.30 SBS World News. 7.35 Secret World Of Snacks: Ice Cream. New Series. Jo Brand narrates a look at the battles between Britain's biggest brands of ice cream. (PGs) 8.30 Adam And Poh's Great Australian Bites. Part 1 of 4. Adam Liaw and Poh Ling Yeow explore Australian cuisine. 9.30 Erotic Stories. A woman has a liberating encounter with a younger co-worker. (MA15+als) 10.35 SBS World News Late. 11.05 Devils. Massimo hacks NYL's servers. (Mal) 12.55 The Stranger. (Malv, R) 4.15 Bamay: Ngarrindjeri Country. (R) 4.45 Destination Flavour Scandinavia Bitesize. (R) 5.00 NHK World English News Morning. 5.30 ANC Philippines The World Tonight.	6.00 Seven News. 7.00 Home And Away. Felicity fumes over Tane and Harper. (PG) 7.30 ABBA Vs Queen. Interviews from band members, producers and others comparing two iconic bands, ABBA and Queen. (PGa, R) 8.30 MOVIE Bridesmaids. Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne. After her friend gets engaged, a woman, already struggling with the end of her own relationship, takes on the role of maid of honour. However, the bachelorette party goes haywire, she loses the position to a rival. (2011, MA15+, R) 11.05 The Latest: Seven News. 11.35 A Friend Of The Family. Jan is finally home. (MA15+) 12.50 Pearson. (Malv, R) 2.00 Home Shopping. (R) 4.00 NBC Today. 5.00 Seven Early News. Sunrise.	6.00 Nine News. 7.00 ICC World Cup: Pre-Game. Pre-game coverage of the ICC World Cup second semi-final match from Eden Gardens, Kolkata, India. 7.30 Cricket. ICC World Cup. Second semi-final. Australia v South Africa. First innings. From Eden Gardens, Kolkata, India. 11.00 ICC World Cup: Innings Break. Takes a look at the play so far in the ICC World Cup second semi-final match from Eden Gardens, Kolkata, India. 11.30 Cricket. ICC World Cup. Second semi-final. Australia v South Africa. Second innings. 3.30 TV Shop: Home Shopping. (R) 4.00 Believer's Voice Of Victory. Religious program. (PGa) 4.30 Cross Court. Hosted by Todd Woodbridge and Jelena Dokic. (R) 5.00 News Early Edition. 5.30 Today. The latest in news and current affairs.	6.30 The Project. A look at the day's news and events. 7.30 Soccer. 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifier. AFC round 2. Australia v Bangladesh. From AAMI Park, Melbourne. 9.50 Dessert Masters. Ten of Australia's greatest pastry chefs, chocolate connoisseurs and baking experts compete. (PG, R) 11.00 The Cheap Seats. Presenters Melanie Bracewell and Tim McDonald take a look at the week that was. (Mal, R) 12.00 Blue Bloods. Danny investigates after a vicious attack leaves a friend hospitalised. (May, R) 1.00 The Project. A look at the day's news and events. (R) 2.00 The Late Show With Stephen Colbert. Hosted by Stephen Colbert. (PG) 3.00 Home Shopping. (R) 4.30 CBS Mornings. Morning news and talk show.
ABC TV PLUS (CH 22)	SBS VICELAND (CH 31)	7TWO (CH 62)	9GO! (CH 82)	10 PEACH (CH 52)
6.00 Children's Programs. 3.15 PJ Masks. 3.30 Play School. 4.00 Andy's Wild Adventures. 4.35 Go Jetters. 5.05 Piffarre. 5.30 Kiya And The Kimja Heroes. 5.55 Peter Rabbit. 6.30 Andy And The Band. 7.05 Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures. 7.30 Spicks And Specks. (PG) 8.00 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 8.30 Hard Quiz. (PG) 9.00 Question Everything. 9.30 Penn & Teller: Fool Us. (PG) 10.15 Australian Epic. (PG) 10.45 Whose Line Is It Anyway? (M) 11.05 Adam Hills: The Last Leg. (M) 11.50 Would I Lie To You? (PG) 12.20 Adam Hills: The Last Leg. (M) 1.05 Live At The Apollo. (M) 1.50 Louis Theroux: By Reason Of Insanity. (M) 2.55 Close. 5.00 Children's Programs.	6.00 WorldWatch. 10.00 Shortland Street. (PG) 12.00 Land Of The Giants: Titans Of Tech. (PG) 12.50 Prison Experiment. (M) 1.40 Hunters. (M) 2.30 Munchies Guide To Sweden. (PG) 3.20 WorldWatch. 5.20 Shortland Street. (PG) 5.50 The Curse Of Oak Island. (PG) 6.40 Jeopardy! 7.30 NITV News Update. 7.35 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown. (M) 8.30 Beyond Oak Island. (PG) 10.10 Inside The World's Toughest Prisons. (M) 11.05 Murdered By A Mob. (M) 12.00 The Dangerous Rise Of Andrew Tate. (MA15+) 12.55 Most Expansivest. (M) 1.50 King Of The Road. (MA15+) 2.40 NHK World English News Morning. 5.00 Al Jazeera.	6.00 Home Shopping. 6.30 I Escaped To The Country. 7.30 Surf Patrol. (PG) 8.00 Million Dollar Minute. 9.00 Harry's Practice. 9.30 NBC Today. 12.00 Better Homes And Gardens. 1.00 I Escaped To The Country. 2.00 South Aussie With Cosi. (PG) 2.30 My Greek Odyssey. (PG) 3.30 The Zoo. 4.00 Surf Patrol. (PG) 4.30 Better Homes And Gardens. 5.30 I Escaped To The Country. (PG) 6.30 Bargain Hunt. 7.30 Father Brown. (M) 9.30 Murdoch Mysteries. (M) 11.30 Father Brown. (M) 1.30 Bargain Hunt. 2.30 Surf Patrol. (PG) 3.00 Better Homes. 4.00 Million Dollar Minute. 5.00 Harry's Practice. (PG) 5.30 James Robison. (PG)	6.00 Children's Programs. 12.00 Medium. (M) 1.00 Bewitched. 1.30 Raymond. (PG) 2.30 Full House. 3.00 MacGyver. (PG) 4.00 Family Ties. (PG) 4.30 The Addams Family. 5.00 Bewitched. 5.30 I Dream Of Jeannie. 6.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (PG) 7.00 Young Sheldon. (PG) 7.30 Survivor 45. (PG) 9.00 Love Island Australia. (M) 10.15 I've Got A Text With Josh And Flex! 11.00 Botched By Nature. (M) 12.00 Under The Dome. (M) 1.00 Life After Lockup. (M) 2.00 I Dream Of Jeannie. 2.30 Full House. 3.00 Bakugan: Geogan Rising. (PG) 3.30 Ninjago. (PG) 4.00 Ricky Zoom. 4.30 TV Shop. 5.00 Pokémon. (PG) 5.30 Yu-Gi-Oh! Sevens. (PG)	6.00 The Late Show With Stephen Colbert. (PG) 7.00 Becker. (PG) 8.00 Seinfeld. (PG) 9.00 Friends. (PG) 10.00 The King Of Queens. (PG) 11.00 Frasier. (PG) 12.00 Becker. (PG) 1.00 The Big Bang Theory. (M) 3.00 The King Of Queens. (PG) 4.00 Becker. (PG) 5.00 Frasier. (PG) 6.00 Friends. (PG) 6.30 Neighbours. (PG) 7.00 Friends. (PG) 8.00 The Big Bang Theory. (PG) 9.30 Seinfeld. The gang is put on trial. (PG) 11.30 Frasier. (PG) 12.00 Home Shopping. 1.30 Stephen Colbert. (PG) 2.30 King Of Queens. (PG) 3.30 Workaholics. (MA15+) 4.30 Shopping.
ABC ME (CH 23)	SBS WORLD MOVIES (CH 32)	7MATE (CH 64)	9GEM (CH 81)	10 BOLD (CH 53)
6.00 Children's Programs. 11.05 BTN. (PG) 11.40 Ethics Matters. (PG) 12.00 Odd Squad. 12.20 How To Do Stuff Good. 12.40 Marvelous. 1.05 Merlin. (PG) 1.50 Horrible Histories. 2.25 Dorg Van Dango. 3.25 The Penguins Of Madagascar. (PG) 4.00 Star Wars: Young Jedi Adventures. 4.20 Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs. 4.45 The Inbvestigators. 5.00 Kung Fu Panda. (PG) 5.25 Miraculous. (PG) 5.45 Hotel Transylvania. 6.00 Turn Up The Volume. 6.30 Operation Ouch! (PG) 6.45 Merlin. (PG) 7.35 The Fairly OddParents. 8.20 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (PG) 8.55 School Of Rock. 9.20 Yaz Queens. 9.50 Rage. (PG) 11.15 Close.	6.00 Magnetic Fields. Continued. Elena Topalidou. (2021, Greek, PGa) 6.40 Frantz. Paula Beer. (2016, French, PGa) 8.50 Belle And Sebastian 3. Félix Bossuet. (2017, French, PGa) 10.30 Zoo. Toby Jones. (2017, Mav) 12.20 Waiting For Anya. Noah Schnapp. (2020, Mv) 2.20 The Crossing. Anna Sofia Skarholt. (2020, Norwegian, PGa) 4.10 About Elly. Golshifteh Farahani. (2009, Persian, PGa) 6.20 From Here To Eternity. Burt Lancaster. Deborah Kerr. (1953, PGa) 8.30 Hurricane. Iwan Rheon. Milo Gibson. (2018, MA15+av) 10.30 White Squall. Jeff Bridges. (1996, Malsv) 12.55 Ammonite. (2020, MA15+) 3.00 Churchill. (2017, Ma) 5.00 From Here To Eternity. (1953, PGa)	6.00 Shopping. 7.00 Step Outside. (PG) 7.30 Creek To Coast. 8.00 A Football Life. (PG) 9.00 Drag Racing. NDR Top Fuel Championship. Round 1. Spring Nationals. Highlights. 10.00 American Pickers. (PG) 11.00 Pawn Stars. (PG) 12.00 Highway Patrol. (PG) 1.00 The Force: BLT. (PG) 2.00 Truck Night In America. (PG) 3.00 Billy The Exterminator. (PG) 3.30 Aussie Lobster Men. (PG) 4.30 Storage Wars. (PG) 5.00 American Restoration. (PG) 5.30 American Pickers. (PG) 6.30 Pawn Stars. (PG) 7.30 Family Guy. (M) 8.30 American Dad! (M) 9.30 Darradong Local Council. (MA15+) 10.45 Simpsons. (PG) 12.15 It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia. (M) 12.45 Late Programs.	6.00 Danger Man. (PG) 7.00 Creflo. (PG) 7.30 Skippy. 8.00 TV Shop. 10.30 Pointless. (PG) 11.30 My Favorite Martian. 12.00 Days Of Our Lives. (M) 12.55 The Young And The Restless. (PG) 1.50 Garden Gurus Moments. 2.00 Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman. (PG) 3.00 Antiques Roadshow. 3.30 MOVIE I Believe In You. Celia Johnson. (1952, PGv) 5.30 Yorkshire Auction House. 6.30 Antiques Roadshow. 7.30 Keeping Up Appearances. (PG) 8.40 The Brokenwood Mysteries. (M) 10.40 See No Evil. (M) 11.40 Madam Secretary. (M) 12.40 Instinct. (MA15+) 1.40 Rizzoli & Isles. (M) 2.35 The Closer. (M) 3.30 Major Crimes. (MA15+) 4.30 Joyce Meyer. (PG) 5.00 Easy Eats.	6.00 Home Shopping. 8.00 Soccer. A-League Men. Round 4. Adelaide United v Sydney FC. Highlights. From Coopers Stadium, Adelaide. 8.30 Diagnosis Murder. (PG) 9.30 Jake And The Fatman. (PG) 10.30 JAG. (PG) 12.00 NCIS. (M) 1.30 NCIS: Los Angeles. (M) 2.30 Jake And The Fatman. (PG) 3.30 Diagnosis Murder. (PG) 5.30 JAG. (PG) 7.30 Bull. (M) 8.30 NCIS: DiNozzo and Bishop become stranded at the airport. (M) 9.25 NCIS: New Orleans. (M) 10.20 FBI. (M) 11.15 FBI: International. (M) 12.15 Shopping. 2.15 Diagnosis Murder. (PG) 4.05 JAG. (PG)
ABC NEWS (CH 24)	SBS FOOD (CH 33)	7BRAVO (CH 65)	9LIFE (CH 83)	10 NITV (CH 34)
6.00 News Breakfast. 9.00 ABC News Mornings. 12.00 ABC News At Noon. 2.00 Parliament Question Time. 3.10 ABC News Afternoons. 4.00 Afternoon Briefing. 5.00 ABC News With Joe O'Brien. 6.00 ABC Evening News. 7.00 ABC National News. 7.30 7.30. 8.00 ABC News Tonight. 8.45 The Business. 9.00 ABC Nightly News. 9.30 Planet America. 10.00 The World. 11.00 News. 11.30 The Drum. 12.30 News Overnight. 1.00 News. 1.15 The Business. 1.30 7.30. 2.00 DW News. 2.30 News Overnight. 3.00 DW News. 3.30 The World. 4.30 7.30. 5.00 DW News. 5.15 The Business. 5.30 Compass.	6.00 Morning Programs. 9.30 Freshly Picked. (PG) 10.00 Food Safari. 10.30 Lidia's Kitchen. (PG) 11.00 The Cook Up. 11.30 Fruits Of The Sea. 12.00 Planet BBQ. (PG) 12.30 Project Fire. (PG) 1.00 All Up In My Grill. 1.30 The Chocolate Queen. 2.00 Barefoot Contessa. 2.30 Big Appetite. 3.00 The Italian Vegan Chef. 3.30 Choccywoccy. 4.00 Dolce India. 4.30 Gordon Ramsay: Uncharted. (PG) 5.30 Freshly Picked. (PG) 6.00 Food Safari. 6.30 Lidia's Kitchen. (PG) 7.00 The Cook Up. 7.30 Fruits Of The Sea. (PG) 8.00 Paula McIntyre's Hamely Kitchen. (PG) 8.30 Guillaume's Paris. (PG) 9.00 Paradise Kitchen Bali. (PG) 9.30 Dine With Me UK. (PG) 10.30 The Cook Up. 11.00 Late Programs.	6.00 Shark Tank. (PG) 7.00 Undercover Boss. (PG) 8.00 Million Dollar Listing NY. (PG) 9.00 Top Chef. (PG) 10.00 Shark Tank. (PG) 11.00 Undercover Boss. (PG) 12.00 Snapped. (M) 1.00 Housewives Of Beverly Hills. (M) 2.00 Shark Tank. (PG) 3.00 Judge Jerry. (PG) 3.30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon. (PG) 4.30 Million Dollar Listing NY. (PG) 5.30 Undercover Boss. (PG) 6.30 Shark Tank. (PG) 7.30 Botched. (M) 8.30 LA Fire & Rescue. (M) 9.30 Below Deck. (M) 10.30 Snapped. (M) 11.30 The Real Housewives Of Orange County. (M) 12.30 Botched. (M) 1.30 LA Fire & Rescue. (M) 2.30 Below Deck. (M) 3.30 Snapped. (M) 4.30 Late Programs.	6.00 House Hunters Int. 6.30 House Hunters. 7.00 Self Made Mansions. 8.00 Garden Gurus. 8.30 The Block. (PG) 9.30 House Hunters Int. 10.30 House Hunters. 11.00 Hot Properties: San Diego. 11.30 Yard Crashers. (PG) 12.00 Good Bones. (PG) 1.00 Getaway. (PG) 1.30 Home Town. 2.30 The Block. (PG) 4.00 Hot Properties: San Diego. 4.30 Yard Crashers. (PG) 5.00 Fixer Upper. (PG) 6.00 House Hunters International. 7.00 House Hunters. 7.30 House Hunters Renovation. 8.30 Fixer Upper. (PG) 9.30 My Lottery Dream Home. (PG) 10.30 Unsellable Houses. 11.30 House Hunters Int. 12.30 House Hunters. 1.00 House Hunters Renov. 2.00 Late Programs.	6.00 Morning Programs. 9.30 Toi Time. 10.00 Volcanic Odysseys. (PG) 10.50 Kutch's Carpool Koorioke. (PG) 11.00 BLK: An Origin Story. (PG) 11.50 Persons Of Interest. (PG) 12.50 Going Places. (PG) 1.50 Kutch's Carpool Koorioke. 2.00 Bamay. (PG) 2.30 The Cook Up. 3.00 Motown Magic. 3.25 Aussie Bush Tales. 3.40 Fresh Fairytales. 4.00 Crazy Smart Science. 4.30 Spartakus And The Sun Beneath The Sea. (PG) 5.00 Our Stories. (PG) 5.30 The 77 Percent. 6.00 Bamay. 6.30 News. 6.40 Volcanic Odysseys. 7.30 Going Places. (PG) 8.30 The Panthers. (MA15+) 9.30 No Ordinary Black. (PG) 9.40 MOVIE Jindabyne. (2006, Malnv) 11.50 Late Programs.
7FLIX (CH 66)	Family. (PG) 5.30 Bondi Vet. (PG) 6.30 10 Years Younger In 10 Days. (PG) 7.30 First Dates UK. (M) 8.30 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (M) 9.30 Fresh TV. (4.00) S.W.A.T. (M)	11.30 Hell's Kitchen USA. (M) 1.00 First Dates UK. (M) 2.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (M) 3.30 Fresh TV. (4.00) S.W.A.T. (M)		

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Death Notices

GALEA

Nola

Beloved wife and mother. Passed away peacefully in her sleep on Tuesday 14th November after a battle with cancer.

Lately of Newcastle, formerly of Canberra.

No funeral service by request of deceased.

In Memoriam



BROMHEAD

Bridgit Mary

17.5.1970 - 16.11.2015

Our beautiful Bridgit

Goodbyes are not forever,
Goodbyes are not the end,
They simply mean we miss you
until we meet again.

Forever loved, Mum and Dad.



Anniversaries

HAPPY 60th WEDDING anniversary



Margaret & Rob Durie

Congratulations Mum & Dad, on reaching
Diamond anniversary level!

We send all our love to you on this very
special day - Nicole & Kirsten

Legal Notices

Notice of intention to administer
In the estate of **MARY FLOOD**, late of Canberra Aged Care, 48 Archibald Street, Lyneham in the Australian Capital Territory, formerly of 55 Dooring Street, Dickson ACT, deceased.

The Public Trustee and Guardian intends to administer the estate of the above named deceased who died on 13 September 2023 leaving a Will dated 10 November 2016. Creditors and claimants of the estate are required to send particulars of their claims to the following address for service within two months of the date of publication hereof, after which time the Public Trustee and Guardian may distribute the estate having regard only to those claims received in writing.

221 London Circuit
Canberra ACT
(GPO Box 239 Canberra ACT 2601)

Public Trustee and Guardian

Form 1 Notice of intended distribution
Administration and Probate Act 1929
In the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory Probate Jurisdiction

In the estate of **JOHN LESLIE DOWDEN**, late of 5 Hirst Place, Giralang ACT 2617, deceased.

Any person with a claim against the estate of the deceased person, who died on 17 August 2022 must send particulars of the claim to us, within 30 days after the day this notice is published. After that time and after 6 months after the date of death of the deceased we intend to distribute the property in the estate having regard only to the claims of which we had notice at the time of the distribution.

Particulars of claims must be sent to the following address for service:

Rene Kremesis
Hijazi Curran Cameron Lawyers
Level 8, 1 Hobart Place, Canberra ACT 2601.
Solicitor for executors.

Legal Notices

Form 1 Notice of intended distribution
Administration and Probate Act 1929
In the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory Probate Jurisdiction

In the estate of **WILLIAM HENRY REID**, late of Bill McKinnon Gardens, 23 Burkitt Street, Page, ACT 2614, deceased.

Any person with a claim against the estate of the deceased person, who died on 18 June 2023 must send particulars of the claim to us, within 30 days after the day this notice is published.

After that time and after 6 months after the date of death of the deceased we intend to distribute the property in the estate having regard only to the claims of which we had notice at the time of the distribution.

Particulars of claims must be sent to the following address for service:

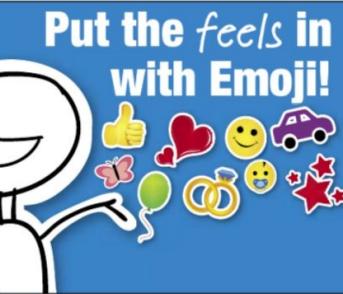
Rene Kremesis
Hijazi Curran Cameron Lawyers
Level 8, 1 Hobart Place, Canberra ACT 2601.
Solicitor for executors.

Public Notices



*Christmas
will be here before you know it.*

Why not wish your customers a Happy Christmas in our Christmas Wishes feature to appear on Saturday 16th December. Contact our friendly team on 13 24 25 or classifieds.southern@austcommunitymedia.com.au today to book



*Put the feels in
with Emoji!*

Public Notices



Australian Government
National Capital Authority

WORKS APPROVAL

Open for Public Consultation

Block 11 Section 44 Belconnen – 53 Benjamin Way

The NCA has received a Works Approval application for a mixed use residential development on Block 11 Section 44 in Belconnen.



The proposal comprises four, six storey buildings upon three storey podiums. This includes 239 residential apartments and ground floor retail tenancies.

The plans and supporting documentation can be viewed at: www.nca.gov.au/planning/works-approval/wa-under-consultation

Submissions can be made by email to: WAconsultation@nca.gov.au.

The NCA welcomes feedback on this application by 5.00pm, 6 December 2023.

[@nca_gov @nca_gov_au @nca_media](http://www.nca.gov.au)
Find out more at: www.nca.gov.au

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CSIRO Black Mountain site Heritage Management Plan INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT



The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), in consultation with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is updating the Heritage Management Plan for the CSIRO Black Mountain site (2–40 Clunies Ross Street, Acton, ACT).

Under the Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999, CSIRO and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water invite comments on the draft heritage management plan from members of the public, Indigenous people with rights and interests in the place, the ACT Government Agency responsible for the site (if any), organisations or other groups with interests in the property.

How To participate:

The consultation period is open from 2 November 2023 to 30 November 2023.

During this period, you can:

- Come to the CSIRO Foundation Building 101 Reception location at 2–40 Clunies Ross Street, Acton, ACT between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday–Friday to view the draft Heritage Management Plan; or visit our website by scanning the QR code above.

Enquiries and comments may be submitted via post or email to the following:

Helga Sousa
Estate, Heritage, and Leasing Coordinator
CSIRO Business and Infrastructure Services, GPO Box 1700, Canberra ACT 2601
Phone: +61 2 6246 4093 E-mail: helga.sousa@csiro.au

The closing date for submission of comments is 5pm AEST 30 Nov 2023



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SPORT SOCCER**Diaz reunites with parents in Colombia**

Liverpool winger Luis Diaz has enjoyed an emotional reunion with his parents after flying home to Colombia for the first time since their kidnapping earlier this month. Diaz arrived in Bogota on Tuesday, where he was greeted by his father Luis Manuel and mother Cilenis Marulanda. Diaz's parents were snatched off the street just over a fortnight ago and, while his mum was freed almost immediately, his dad was held for 12 days before being released last week.

**Napoli fire Garcia and rehire Mazzarri**

Six months after storming to their first Serie A title since the days when Diego Maradona played for the club, Napoli are in a state of upheaval. The southern Italian club fired coach Rudi Garcia on Tuesday, two days after the team's third loss in Serie A this season, and replaced him with Walter Mazzarri, who returns to Napoli 10 years after leading them to a runner-up finish in the league. Garcia had taken over from title-winning manager Luciano Spalletti.

Socceroos confident goals will flow**SOCEROOS**

THE Socceroos are confident they can adapt their style of play to break down packed defences and start their upcoming World Cup qualification campaign on a high note.

Australia kick off their run to the 2026 tournament, co-hosted by the USA, Canada and Mexico, by playing Bangladesh at Melbourne's AAMI Park on Thursday night, then Palestine in Kuwait five days later.

Graham Arnold's charges will likely have far more possession in those games than in recent friendlies against Argentina, England, Mexico and Ecuador.

"Especially watching for the past four or five years, playing the big teams, you don't really get the constant possession or the ball to practice these type of things," midfielder Massimo Luongo said.

"So these are great games for us to maybe strengthen a part of the game where we're probably not as strong."

"Compared to playing against Argentina where you've got to be solid and block spaces and worry about their threats and you might get a few chances on the counter attack, or you might have possession for half the time we probably will on Thursday."

"So it'll be a great game to test a few things that probably we don't get tested enough on."

"You need a lot of patience

... you've just got to stick in there and try and break down those types of teams - and you will, and you'll get opportunities.

"It just comes down to having a level head and a bit of composure and then getting that first goal."

Teammate Jackson Irvine was confident Australia could break down packed defences.

"We'll have to find new solutions and ways to create chances and score goals, but we've got such great quality, great individual quality and a great structure as a team that we know we can create chances and score goals," Irvine said.

"We want to give the fans something to get off their seats for and be excited about, and provide bits of individual quality combined with the structure and the way we play as a team."

On Thursday, Arnold will take the outright record for most 'A' internationals as Socceroos coach when he steps into the technical area for the 59th time.

"He's been a huge factor in the way my career and international career's developed over the last five years," said Irvine, the St Pauli skipper in Germany's 2. Bundesliga.

"I've started just about every game since he became coach and he puts such trust in me ... obviously it will be a special night for him and hopefully we can reward him with a great performance and a win."



Midfielder Jackson Irvine says the Socceroos are preparing to have much more possession than usual when they take on Bangladesh on Thursday night. Picture AAP

Gustavsson to stay with Australia**MATILDAS**

COACH Tony Gustavsson is set to see through Australia's Paris Olympics campaign after Chelsea's Emma Hayes was formally named the new head coach of the US women's national team.

Gustavsson, a former US assistant in their 2015 and 2019 Women's World Cup triumphs under Jill Ellis, was among those heavily linked to the top job after guiding Australia to the semi-finals of this year's tournament.

The Swede, contracted with Football Australia until after Paris, has been cagey when pressed on his future.

But following this month's Olympic qualifiers, Gustavsson said he had "unfinished business" with the Matildas.

Australia can seal qualification for next year's Olympics via a two-legged play-off against world No.50 Uzbekistan in February.

It is also unclear what Hayes' imminent departure will mean for Matildas captain Sam Kerr, who has thrived under the English coach's mentorship and is contracted at Chelsea until the summer of 2024.

Interim coach Twila Kilgore will continue to lead the US until Hayes' arrival after the Women's Super League season ends in May, and then she will become one of her assistants. It leaves Hayes just a short time with the team before the Olympics begin in late July.

Calls for forfeit as pitch issues force United postponement**A-LEAGUE WOMEN****Cameron Mee**

THERE have been calls for the Western Sydney Wanderers to forfeit their clash with Canberra United after they were unable to find a suitable venue.

The game was scheduled to be played in Bathurst on Saturday, however the weather has prevented officials from preparing the pitch for the fixture.

The Wanderers looked into a range of alternative venues, however they are un-

available due to planned turf upgrades. It's understood Canberra United offered to host the match but was knocked back.

Many within the club are frustrated with the situation and pondered why A-League officials did not come down hard on Western Sydney.

The Australian Professional Leagues pointed to the planned turf upgrades as a factor in the decision to allow the Wanderers to postpone the match.

"There is scheduled turf renovation happening at



Canberra coach Njegosh Popovich is frustrated with his team's predicament. Picture by Sitthixay Ditthavong

Wanderers Park which was playing in Bathurst, and then planned before the season away from home, leading as originally the team was

into the December FIFA international window," an APL spokesperson said.

The postponement comes after last week's clash with Sydney FC was rescheduled due to the Sky Blues' involvement in the Asian Women's Club Championship.

The changes mean Canberra United will now play two extra games in January.

The side will return to the field against the Newcastle Jets next Sunday before another week off for an international break. As a result, the team will have played just one game in a month.

A frustrated coach Njegosh Popovich said there is little the club can do about the situation except move forward and focus on the Jets clash.

"It's not ideal," Popovich said. "You can't repeat a game effort. You can try whatever you want but nothing can take the place of a game. There's a challenge now of going into a game next week without playing for a fortnight then we have another week off after that because of the international window. One month with one game, that's not ideal."

GRAFTON GALLOPS**DAILY DOUBLE** 5 & 7**EARLY QUADDIE** 1, 2, 3, 4**TREBLE** 5, 6, 7**QUADRELLA** 4, 5, 6, 7**BIGG** 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7**TRACK: SOFT (5) RAIL: OUT 3M****1 1.50 Westlawn Finance** 2220m

Benchmark 58. Apprentices can claim \$27,000

No Form Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1 69231 SHE'S ENUFF twh (6)....Ms C Bellamy (a2)	59	92	5.50	
2 87745 CHARMED DESTINY tw (5)....Scratched	58.5	—		
3 68464 CHIEF COMMAND dw (4)		58.5	91	10.00
4 84628 LAST NOT LEAST dtcw (8)....M Mc Gillivray	58	93	8.00	
5 74671 BIG HITTER dtcw (1)....J Griselda	57.5	97	4.20	
6 01424 DELANEY's wife (11)....J Taylor	57	94	4.40	
7 68846 INTO THE BLUE (10)....Ms S Callow (a5)	56.5	84	23.00	
8 81232 OSAKA MISS (9)....Jai Williams (a3)	56.5	100	3.50	
9 85076 DANEWAY (3)....L Rolls	56	88	34.00	
10 75154 NGOZI (7)....Ms S Collett	55	87	19.00	
11 00556 FOR THE TIGER tw (2)....Ms M Fitzgerald (a3)	55	87	31.00	
OSAKA MISS, Big Hitter, Delaneys's Girl, She's Enuff				

2 2.25 Book A Xmas Party Marquee 1006m

C.H.G Benchmark 58. Apprentices can claim \$27,000

No Form Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1 41445 KING'S GOLD dtcn (3)....G Cahill (a4)	60	100	12.00	
2 68482 BRAZEN LAUGH twb (8)....Z Wadick (a1)	59	60	4.20	
3 75388 LOCKUP THE KITTENS w (4)....J Griselda	58.5	99	6.50	
4 30132 BLUE SKY MOON dwb (2)....Ms S Callow (a5)	57.5	94	1.00	
5 11141 HAYDEN'S REQUEST dw (9)....N Masuda	57.5	95	7.50	
6 70163 THEREGOS d (5)....R Spokes	57.5	95	7.50	
7 59440 ROLLA dtwh (7)....	55.5	85	16.00	
8 01060 NAUGHTY NIGE twh (6)....Scratched	55	87	31.00	
9 52784 INVINCIBLE FAITH dt (1)....C Taylor	55	87	31.00	
KING'S GOLD, Hayden's Request, Abrazen Laugh, Theremos				

3 3.05 graftontickets.com.au 1006m

F&M Benchmark 58. Apprentices can claim \$27,000

No Form Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1 22614 QUAKES dwb (3)....Ms M Fitzgerald (a3)	62.5	94	10.00	
2 17873 IN THE BLINK w (4)....Z Wadick (a1)	62	100	8.00	
3 04366 SLICE OF HEAVEN dwb (2)....Ms S Callow (a5)	61	90	11.00	
4 55900 MISS ARIZONA dwn (5)....D Peiley	60.5	92	15.00	
5 80955 SNOW FALCON (10)....	60.5	97	12.00	
6 28443 JUST COSMOS w (8)....M Mc Gillivray	59.5	98	31.00	
7 45313 MISS SHEAF (1)....M Mc Guren	59.5	100	3.90	
8 s3321 SCUD dw (6)....B Looker	59.5	97	2.20	
9 95445 ADELITA ROSE dtwh (7)....L Rolls	58.5	98	18.00	
10 s1985 GIRLS NIGHT IN d (9)....C Vitter (a3)	58.5	92	16.00	
SCUD, Miss Sheaf, Adelita Rose, Snow Falcon				

PAKENHAM GALLOPS**DAILY DOUBLE** 6 & 8**E/QUAD** 1, 2, 3, 4**TREBLE** 6, 7, 8**QUADRELLA** 5, 6, 7, 8**CODE: MR****TRACK: GOOD (4) RAIL: OUT 8M FROM THE WINNING POST TO THE 1000M, OUT 9M FOR THE REMAINDER****1 1.30 Superior Food Services Plate** 1600m

3yo & up Maiden SW. Apprentices can claim \$37,500

No Form Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1 64242 BING'S DREAM h (1)....T Stockdale	59.5	100	9.50	
2 83 CRYOSTAT (8)....L McNeil (a2)	59.5	83	23.00	
3 s983 FIGHTING EDGE (2)....L Riordan	59.5	89	15.00	
4 2323s MAC KALHOUN (7)....J Mott	59.5	92	6.50	
5 TRIAGONAL (9)....J Hill	59.5	75	11.00	
6 06674 TURTLE DRAW (3)....Ms J Beriman	59.5	83	12.00	
7 26s BE STILL THE EARTH (5)....C Murray	58	98	2.60	
8 54 BIG JIMMA (6)....T Nugent	58	96	3.10	
9 54565 VAMPIRE MISS (4)....Ms C Heffel (a3)	57.5	84	11.00	
BIG JIMMA, Fighting Edge, Mac Kalhoun, Bing's Dream				

2 2.00 Gippsland Premium Quarries 1400m

3yo Maiden SW. Apprentices can claim \$37,500

No Form Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1 s3243 DELIVERING b (1)....M Dee	58	97	3.60	
2 5202 GALLANT PRINCE (15)....B Mertens	59	92	4.80	
3 GYPSY COVE (11)....D Moor	58	69	8.00	
4 3s MARK OF ZORRO (6)....B Shin	58	89	4.80	
5 2 ONLYGOLDWILDDO (2)....W Egan	58	98	3.90	
6 0s433 RHODESIAN RED (13)....J Mott	58	90	19.00	
7 37 SHOOTER MCGAVIN (14)....Scratched	58	—		
8 2s22 L SILVER HAMMER (8)....B Allen	58	100	4.00	
9 5 SLIPPERY REICH (EM) b (3)....T Stockdale	58	81	15.00	
10 STARDEALT (4)....Z Spain	58	71	6.00	
11 6 FIRE HIGH (16)....J Chidz	58	81	15.00	
12 55 SUPER DAWN (9)....B Mc Dougal	58	87	26.00	
13 262 SUPERIOR ZARA (12)....Ms W Costin	56	92	26.00	
14 SWEET JASMINE (5)....D Yendall	56	75	18.00	
15 0 ALLWAYS FIENTORE (EM) (10)....T Nugent	56	88	8.00	
16 655 DRAGOON (EM) (7)....D Moor	56	81	34.00	
ONLYGOLDWILDDO, Delivering, Gallant Prince, Superior Zara				

3 2.30 Australian Racing Tours Plate 1400m

4yo & up Maiden SW. Apprentices can claim \$37,500

No Form Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1 ANTHRUM (1)....J Mott	58	92	12.00	
2 055 BREHEN (8)....B Mc Dougal	59.5	93	9.00	
3 s5097 DOWNTOWN MAN (4)....Ms A Hermann	59.5	83	10.00	
4 40595 ELECTROZON (2)....D Moor	59.5	87	7.00	
5 ENZEDDER (11)....Ms C Gaudry (a15)	59.5	81	26.00	
6 58683 MISTER FAIRBANKS (9)....J Hill	59.5	96	10.00	
7 2433s REACTIVATE (10)....J Chidz	59.5	93	15.00	
8 66945 RIPPLEVIEW LAH (5)....T Stockdale	59.5	91	19.00	
9 3276s DISTURBIA (7)....J Noonan	59.5	99	3.50	
10 722 EVERETT (6)....Ms C Heffel (a3)	57.5	99	3.80	
11 77s MY COUSIN EFFIE (3)....W Price (a)	57.5	100	9.50	
12 887 QUENTINTELLAIS (12)....Ms T Chapman (a3)	57.5	83	41.00	
EVERETT, Anthurium, Rippleview Lah, Everzetter				

4 3.00 Saints Paints Plate 1200m

3yo & up Maiden SW. Apprentices can claim \$37,500

No Form Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1 3243s DELIVERING b (1)....B Stimpson	59.5	87	3.60	
2 15946 ARTIE'S DYNAMITE (2)....T Nugent	58	75	41.00	
3 4438s SUMMERHILL dtwn (8)....Ms C Gaudry (a5)	57	85	6.00	
HYDRO STAR, Elite, Regaline, Grace'n' Grey, Over Boost				

5 3.30 Sportsbet Bet With Mates 1200m

3yo & up Maiden SW. Apprentices can claim \$37,500

No Form Horse	Jockey	Wgt	Rtg	Price
1 04395 MS KEELER tw (9)....L Cartwright (a3)	56.5	89	26.00	
2 19s12 EL CAPONY d (5)....Ms D Keane (a3)	61	100	5.50	
3 3754s ESSEFFINNITY wb (5)....B Shin	59	93	4.60	
4 1648 AMERICAN ZOMBIE (3)....L Nolen	58.5	89	8.00	
5 5153s FIRE REBEL (w)....Ms C Heffel (a3)	58.5	91	19.00	
6 06444 MORNING MELODY dtchn (10)....B Allen	58.5	96	10.00	
7 6275s MY HARUCONI tn (4)....T Spain	58.5	99	7.50	
8 35538 ANTICKS dwn (6)....Ms C Gaudry (a5)	57.5	92	8.00	
9 21 QUEEN STARLIGHT dw (2)....Ms T Ball (a2)	57.5	93	4.00	
10 0768s HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP w (7)....J Luxe	57.5	81	26.00	
11 28463 GOTTA PULSE w (11)....Ms C Holloway (a4)	54	90	51.00	
12 56557 FROSTED ROMANCE (4)....T Nugent	57.5	60	21.00	
ELOUYOU, Fronto, Thunder Award, Miss Passion				

EMERGENCIES

13 NEW YORK DIVA (12)....Ms C Heffel (a3)

14 07s JENNIZACINTO h (6)....J Barrie (a2)

15 66557 FROSTED ROMANCE (4)....T Nugent

16 55657 FROSTED ROMANCE (4)....T Nugent

17 70000 FROSTED ROMANCE (4)....T Nugent

18 55657 FROSTED ROMANCE (4)....T Nugent

19 55657 FROSTED ROMANCE (4)....T Nugent

20 55657 FROSTED ROMANCE (4)....T Nugent

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Queensland, NSW to host Opening Round

AFL boss Andrew Dillon's desire to have "footy in every home around the country" is the driving factor behind the competition's inaugural Opening Round.

The league on Wednesday confirmed the 2024 season will start with a marquee set of four fixtures in Queensland and New South Wales before a full set of nine games are played the following week in round one.

Finalists Sydney and Melbourne will start the new campaign with a clash at the SCG on Thursday, March 7, with new Swans ruckman Brodie Grundy to face his former teammates for the first time.

The Brisbane Lions host Carlton at the Gabba the following night before Gold Coast coach Damien Hardwick takes centre stage, leading the Suns into battle with his former club Richmond at Heritage Bank Stadium on Saturday.

GWS will meet reigning premiers Collingwood at Giants Stadium later that night.

The Lions-Blues and Giants-Magpies meetings are rematches of last season's



Sydney are set to tackle Melbourne at the SCG in the AFL season-opener on Thursday, March 7. Picture AAP

preliminary finals. The fixtures fall in the same week as the NRL continues round one of its 2024 season with its first matches of the year in Australia, following rugby league's season launch in Las Vegas on the previous weekend.

There are multiple clashes on the two competitions' schedules, with the Giants and Suns hosting Opening Round matches on the same day as NRL fixtures in their markets.

But the AFL hopes the Opening Round storylines

will take some of the spotlight in the northern markets.

"The four match-ups are big, with four of our biggest-supported Victorian clubs travelling north, and we look forward to starting our season with real momentum before we head

into a blockbuster round of matches in round one," Dillon said.

"Given this weekend also falls on the Labour Day long weekend in Victoria it presents a terrific opportunity for fans to travel north to support their club and enjoy

an extended interstate break.

"We are driven to have footy in every home around the country, whether that be playing, coaching, umpiring, supporting or volunteering, and starting the season across Queensland and NSW will only amplify this desire."

Sydney chief executive Tom Harley sees Opening Round as an opportunity for clubs in Queensland and NSW to boost their profiles.

"We've all become accustomed to starting the season with a bang in Melbourne - Carlton and Richmond have had a monopoly on that for a fair bit of time now," Harley said. "So if we are to be truly Australia's game, with four of the clubs north of the Murray (River) ... it's an opportunity."

"We'll certainly take the opportunity from the club's point of view to bask in that spotlight and make sure we put on a good show."

Carlton and Richmond will do battle on Thursday, March 14 to kick-off a full set of nine matches in round one. The eight teams that play in the Opening Round will have a bye between rounds two and six.

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Puru's hearty attack on an NRL berth

David Polkinghorne

WHAT Hohepa Puru lacks in size, he makes up for with heart.

The Canberra Raiders lock has set his sights on establishing himself in the NRL side next year, having got his foot through the door at the back-end of the 2023 campaign.

The Canberra Times revealed Puru had re-signed at the start of November, with the Raiders officially announcing it on Wednesday. He's locked in for at least 2024, with an option for an extra season.

The 21-year-old made his NRL debut in round 27 for the Green Machine and impressed enough to keep his spot for their elimination final as well.

At 1.77 metres tall and 92 kilograms he's not the biggest lock in the competition.

But he makes up for that with his voracious work rate - averaging 133 run metres in the NSW Cup this year.

"I'm obviously not the biggest forward, but I do value my fitness," Puru said. "I get through a mountain of work and if I'm working for my teammate next to me then they're obviously going to want to play with me."

"This year was a good year showing what I was capable of in the middle. "The boys know that I'll work hard for them. My work ethic makes up for size that I don't have compared with other forwards."

The Raiders have plenty of depth in the middle forwards.

Corey Horsburgh will return from suspension in round three after shining in the No.13 jersey this year. Joe Tapine, Trey Mooney and English recruit Morgan Smithies can also play lock as well.

But Puru was undaunted by the competition and had full faith in Raiders coach Ricky

Stuart to pick the best man for the job.

"I do want to cement an NRL spot - whether that's starting or off the bench," he said. "I've got my foot in the door. I've only got to take another step forward and hopefully stand on the other side of that door and earn the respect of my teammates in NRL."

"If I am in Cup then I'm going to perform the best I can to get back up there."

Puru's part of the next generation of middle forwards coming through the Raiders' ranks.

But there's also plenty of experience for the former Penrith junior to learn off as well.

Tapine and Josh Papali'i are two of the best props in the game, and they have 471 NRL games of experience between them.

Puru's also become friends with "Big Red" Horsburgh, who made his State of Origin debut in 2023.

He planned to sponge off the trio in his

bid to establish himself in the 17.

"I'm in a very fortunate position where the boys have done their time and they know what it takes to get 200 games down the track," Puru said.

"They show me the way - not just at training, but off the field you've got 'Papa' and 'Taps' who check in with me constantly."

"They check if I want to get coffee, check on my mental well-being. That goes a long way to trusting us on the field and at training."

"If they're going to look after you off the field then I come in and I feel safe around them."

"I'm really close with Big Red off the field so there's no tension between us."

"He's played a lot more games than me so I'm going to watch him and try and soak up as much as I can from him to become a better player."



Latrell Mitchell (r) says he's much happier now that he and Jack Wighton (l) were cleared in court. Picture by Sitthixay Ditthavong

Rabbitohs star 'faked being happy for months'

LATRELL Mitchell says he "faked being happy for 10 months" as his ultimately successful legal battle cast a long shadow over a tumultuous year on and off the field.

Mitchell and soon-to-be South Sydney teammate Jack Wighton were charged in February for "fighting" outside a Canberra night club during celebrations for the latter's birthday.

Charges were eventually dropped in early November after the most senior police officer in the duo's arrest admitted he lied while testifying under oath.

After being found not

guilty, Mitchell described the charges and ensuing trial as a "traumatic experience".

But he had not made his feelings about the legal ordeal known until appearing on the Let's Trot podcast with former Rabbitohs teammate Josh Mansour on Wednesday.

"It was a long 10 months, it just dragged on," the star fullback said.

"I knew I was innocent the whole time and just trying to prove that I was a good person and trying to fake being happy for 10 months was pretty hard. I'm glad it's over."

"It's something that's been weighing on me for a long time and my family, probably my family more so.

"Mental drag and just a ball-and-chain that I didn't need. I've got a lot of them hanging around."

"I'm happier now, I'm back to being Latrell Mitchell. I can't wipe the smile off my face."

While the case cast a shadow off the field in 2023, Mitchell was also thwarted by a calf injury which didn't help Souths as they dropped from ladder leaders after 11 rounds to ninth at season's end.

Club legend Sam Burgess left his assistant-coaching job during the downward spiral amid claims head coach Jason Demetriou had been giving superstar players Mitchell and Cody Walker preferential treatment. Demetriou and the playing group denied those suggestions at the time.

"It rattled me, I tell you what," Mitchell said of Burgess's exit. "You try and say it didn't affect you as a person (but) it's started to drip into your personal life and footy. If you're not happy on the field, you're never going to perform on (it)."

Mitchell missed two months after injuring his calf in NSW camp for the State of Origin series opener, with the Rabbitohs winning only two games in his absence.

"It was just hard for me to come back and try and find that form again," he said. "It was 10 weeks too long (injured), where I wasn't looked after the way I should have been. (The idea) that, 'Oh it's all right, Latrell's back, we'll be right again, we'll win again', just the pressure of that got to me a little bit. But other than that I think we just lost that drive, that connection too, confidence."

RA rules out any more Suaalli-like NRL raids

RUGBY Australia boss Phil Waugh says the days of throwing blank cheques at NRL stars are over as the ailing code focuses on developing its own talent and producing Wallabies from within.

While the NRL is considering offering salary-cap exemptions to help clubs raid the rugby ranks, Waugh insists there'll be no more splashing the cash willy-nilly like RA did this year to entice Joseph-Aukuso Suaalli into a code switch.

RA's signing of Suaalli on a reported \$4.8 million three-year deal from 2025 has been described as "insane", with one Wallabies great privately telling AAP that amount of money would have been better invested in "keeping 10 young players in rugby".

Waugh, who only took over as RA chief executive in June after Suaalli was lured from the Sydney Roosters, has categorically ruled out a repeat of the multi-million-dollar raids on NRL players.

"I keep talking about being fiscally responsible because the game historically has spent more than we can afford," he said.

"Which is why then I come back to what's the environment that we're creating to attract players?"

"So it's not just all about money. You don't want to be attracting people just because of the money and then you don't have the environment sorted out ... we need to ensure that we're creating an environment that people want to be here and we're filling stadiums and it's a real buzz around the game."

'Shocking':
Rival can't
believe star's
retirement

MEG Lanning's long-time rival Harmanpreet Kaur has described her shock at the Australia legend's retirement call just a month out from a tour of India.

Australia's women will play their first Test in India since 1984 when they face the hosts at Mumbai's famous Wankhede Stadium on December 21.

But Australia will have a new captain, expected to be Alyssa Healy, for the eagerly-anticipated series, which includes three ODIs and T20s, after Lanning's decision to end her stellar international career at age 31.

Lanning and Kaur are two of the greatest women's cricketers in history, with the pair arguably their country's all-time best female batters respectively.

Kaur is currently the No.8 ranked batter in ODIs, one place ahead of Lanning.

"Definitely it was shocking because the kind of player she is, I still feel she had so many years to do well for Australian cricket, but that's a personal decision," the Indian captain said on Wednesday.

"She has achieved so (much) as a women's cricketer. She has been leading the team from the front, (won) so many ICC titles.

"I think she has achieved so many things, which as a player, we dream to achieve those things, but wishing her luck for the future."

Kaur is the only Indian playing in this season's WBBL, returning to the Melbourne Renegades after missing last year's edition.

"We have done really well in patches, but unfortunately results haven't gone in our favour," she said of her last-placed team.

Australia look to add more to South Africa's tale of World Cup misery



Adam Zampa is set to play a crucial role in Australia's World Cup semi-final against South Africa. Picture Getty Images

CADEN HELMERS



ALLAN Donald knows the footage will stay on YouTube long after anyone who saw that Edgbaston epic live is gone.

So he had to learn to live with it. There was a time the South African needed therapy to cope with the dramatic end to the 1999 Cricket World Cup semi-final, but the more Donald saw it - the

pictures of Adam Gilchrist taking off the bails before 11 canary yellow uniforms crowded the frame - the more it helped.

Donald's name will always be tied to one of the greatest one-day games of all time. He just wishes he was on the other side of history. Instead, Donald didn't run when Lance Klusener bolted. Gilchrist whipped off the bails, and the tie was enough to send Australia into the World Cup final.

Australia would win the next three 50-over World Cup finals, lifting the trophy

four times since that 1999 tournament. The Australian men's side has won five one-day World Cups and a Twenty20 edition.

South Africa, 24 years later, are still yet to reach a decider. Add in a pair of Twenty20 World Cup semi-final defeats, and South Africa's record stands at 0-6.

Now their paths cross again, with the Proteas desperate to rid themselves of the "chokers" tag when they meet Australia in a World Cup semi-final at Kolkata's Eden Gardens on Thursday.

The weather in Kolkata could force a washout and send South Africa to the final, but if the heavens don't intervene, they will need to replicate a win over Australia earlier in the tournament to break their drought.

Australia enter as favourites - but you wouldn't have thought it after underwhelming losses to India and South Africa to start the tournament. Just as they did after a slow start in 1999, they have won every game since.

Critical to their success have been the likes of David

Warner, who now boasts more World Cup centuries than any other Australian; Glenn Maxwell, whose double-century against Afghanistan might be the best knock in tournament history; a resurgent Mitchell Marsh and a blonde spinner wearing an earring.

Adam Zampa will be the first to tell you he's not Shane Warne - a crucial part of that 1999 team - but Australia may not be in this semi-final without him. He needs just one more scalp to equal Muttiah Muralitharan (23 in 2007) for the most

'Go for it': Head not afraid ahead of Proteas rematch

TRAVIS Head has challenged the South African bowler who broke his hand to target him again when Australia meets the Proteas in their World Cup semi-final.

Head missed Australia's first five games of the India-based tournament after a delivery from Gerald Coetzee struck his left hand during the fourth ODI of the sides' series in September.

The opener flew home to recover but Australia opted to keep him in the World Cup squad, a decision that paid off when he made 109

runs in a crucial defeat of New Zealand on return.

Since his century against the Black Caps, Head has averaged only seven runs across three knocks, the left-hander falling to right-arm pacemen like Coetzee on each occasion.

Head doubted Coetzee would send extra love his way when the sides met in Kolkata on Thursday, but was unfazed either way.

"Go for it," Head said. "He's taken the most wickets for them but has missed a couple of games so it'll be in-

teresting to see what kind of make-up they go with. I don't think that (the injury) will be in their mind."

With 18 wickets at 19.38, Coetzee is the equal-third highest wicket-taker at the tournament, only slightly ahead of Proteas allrounder Marco Jansen with 17 at 24.41.

Fellow quick Kagiso Rabada has 12 scalps of his own - as many as Australia's most prolific paceman Josh Hazlewood.

"They're a very confident bowling attack," Head said.

"They're a very skilful bowling attack so I don't think I'll be targeted any certain way."

"I think they'll think their skill-set is good enough to get me out. I'll back my skill-set against theirs and we'll see how we go."

Head is holding no grudges against Coetzee. "I'm sure he didn't mean to hit me in the hand. I reckon it was probably meant to go a little bit higher than that," Head joked. "But that's all part of the game ... He did me a favour, I got four weeks at home with the family."



Travis Head is looking forward to facing Proteas quick Gerald Coetzee in the World Cup semi-finals.



South Africa have endured a nightmare run in semi-finals, from the 1999 thriller to the one that got away in 2015. Pictures AP

wickets for a spinner in a World Cup. Zampa was seven years old when Warne claimed eight wickets across the 1999 semi-final and final, while South Africa's tale of semi-final misery begins before the majority of the squad assembled in India were even born.

It was in 1992 they needed 22 from the final 13 balls against England before rain hit. The rules that came before the Duckworth-Lewis system - itself not without fault - stated South Africa needed 21 runs from one ball when play resumed.

Then came that day in 1999, when Damien Fleming rolled the ball towards Gilchrist in what is perhaps the most-replayed moment in the tournament's storied history. With South Africa all out for 213, Australia advanced to the final after finishing higher and went on to lift the trophy.

The rivals would meet eight years later in the Caribbean, where Shaun Tait took 4-39 and Glenn McGrath 3-18 to roll South Africa for 149. Australia reeled in the target before Adam Gilchrist belted a century in the final.

Australia's next World Cup win would come on home soil in 2015. When Mitchell Starc skittled Brendon McCullum in the first over, the South Africans were far from the MCG. Their hopes had been crushed by South African-born Kiwi Grant Elliott, who sent a Dale Steyn delivery over the fence to send the Black Caps to the final. "Looking back at 2015, we probably thought they were the only team that could beat us, certainly at that stage in the tournament," Starc said, "and we didn't play them."

"We do like to have those bowling options. Pat likes to ring the changes, and I think his style of captaincy has suited the teams we have given him out on the field.

"We do like to have the bowling options,

Comets taking lessons from Australia's World Cup path

Cameron Mee

THEY may be another world away, but ACT Comets coach Jono Dean is confident there are plenty of lessons to be learnt from Australia's run to the World Cup semi-finals.

The national side will take on South Africa in the second knockout clash in India on Thursday night.

Australia struggled early, dropping their opening two games, before finding their feet and reeling off seven-straight victories to



ACT all-rounder Scott Murn and coach Jono Dean ahead of the side's return to Phillip. Picture by Keegan Carroll

secure a top-four finish. Under the tutelage of coach Andrew McDonald, the side adapted to the In-

dian conditions and refined their approach with the bat and in the field.

It's a lesson the Comets

'Don't overthink it': Weather won't factor into Australia's side

Scott Bailey

AUSTRALIA will not let weather dictate their World Cup semi-final side, as officials weigh up their most difficult call of the tournament between Marcus Stoinis and Marnus Labuschagne.

Captain Pat Cummins confirmed on Wednesday afternoon in India that they were leaning one way in the battle between the pair, but did not want to disclose selection details before the toss against South Africa in Kolkata on Thursday.

At the heart of the issue is whether Australia opt to take in an extra bowler with allrounder Stoinis, or prefer the stability of Labuschagne's batting at No.5.

The other potential factor impacting the match is a tropical cyclone building off the Bay of Bengal, that has potential to tip Australia out of the World Cup if Thursday and the reserve day on Friday are washed out.

There had been a thought that a reduced-overs game could play into the hands of Stoinis, given his ability to provide explosive hitting as opposed to the more steady Labuschagne.

But coach Andrew McDonald said the weather would not be considered in Australia's selections for the semi-final.

"We keep it really simple, it's really hard to plan for weather," McDonald said on SEN on Wednesday.

"We go about picking our side with the whole 50 overs in mind on the first day. I don't think we get too far ahead of ourselves or overthink it."

"Pick the best team for the conditions against the South African opponent and go from there and see what unfolds."

McDonald did, however, indicate that Stoinis' bowling could be hard to ignore, given the balance in options it has provided Cummins throughout the tournament.

"We saw Marcus Stoinis' impact at Bengaluru against Pakistan was pivotal," McDonald said.

"We do like to have those bowling options. Pat likes to ring the changes, and I think his style of captaincy has suited the teams we have given him out on the field.

"We do like to have the bowling options,



Australia face a tough choice between Marcus Stoinis (l) and Marnus Labuschagne for the semi-final.

what bowling options do we need for the surface in Kolkata is the real question."

If overlooked, it would be a cruel call for Labuschagne who has played 17 straight ODIs for Australia since initially being left out of the preliminary World Cup squad in August.

Labuschagne has averaged 35.75 for the tournament and struck at 77.08, while proving to be close to Australia's best in the field.

"With the allrounder, someone like say Stoinis at No.7 is giving you valuable overs and then also is a really aggressive finisher to the innings," Cummins said.

"You are weighing that up against a middle-order batter if you think the bowling won't come into it as much."

"Maybe you think the runs will come in the middle overs rather than blasting out at the end."

"They are the things we have to weigh up. I don't think there is a wrong or right answer."

Australia have also cleared Glenn Maxwell to return after he underwent scans on his hamstring following cramps during his record-breaking double-century against Afghanistan.

A win on Thursday night will put Australia into their eighth World Cup final, while South Africa are attempting to win a semi-final for the first time in five attempts.

will be required to implement on Monday when they return to Phillip for the second game of their National Second XI campaign against South Australia.

The conditions at home will be vastly different to what was on offer at the WACA in last week's loss to Western Australia.

"A lot of the boys have played out here before," Dean said.

"It's similar to the pitches in Canberra, a bit flatter and not as much bounce. The game plan probably shifts a

little bit but not too much.

"It brings our spinners into the game as well ... I imagine we'll have some better matchups at Phillip next week."

Dean is in the early stages of his transition from playing to coaching and has slowly risen up the ranks.

His standing in the cricket scene has grown over the past couple of seasons and he was an assistant coach for the Prime Minister's XI and Australia A last summer.

The experience gave Dean a taste of the national

operation and provided him with access to some of the country's smartest minds.

"As a coach you're always searching for opportunities for professional development," he said.

"I'm hoping to have some involvement with the Strikers when they're here in January."

"As a coach I'm looking to learn as much as the players."

"I'm going to fail at times but as long as I'm reflecting and asking the right questions, I'm going to get better."

The Canberra Times

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**TAKING LESSONS**

Australia's World Cup journey inspires Comets

CRICKET: PAGE 39

**SIZEABLE CHALLENGE**

Re-signed Raider sets his sights on an NRL spot

LEAGUE: PAGE 37

**CALLS FOR FORFEIT**

Frustration as another United clash postponed

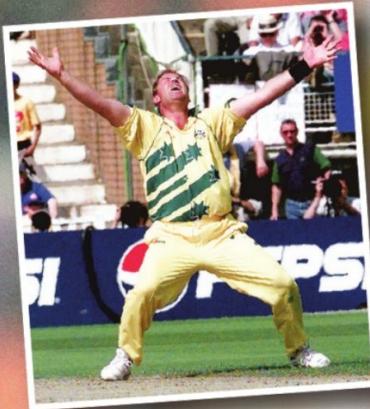
SOCCER: PAGE 34



PARTY LIKE IT'S 1999

Another blonde leg-spinner has the chance to etch his name in history as Australia looks to add to South Africa's tale of World Cup misery

PAGE 38



Adam Zampa will play a crucial role in tonight's semi-final, just like Shane Warne (inset) did in 1999. Pictures AP

Giants host Anzac Day blockbuster at Manuka

AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

Caden Helmers

MANUKA Oval will host an Anzac Day game between two AFL heavyweights with the GWS Giants set to host grand finalists Brisbane on one of the biggest days on the football calendar.

The Giants will host the Lions at Manuka Oval in a prime time slot on April 25, with Channel Seven's Thursday night broadcast tipped to attract huge ratings following the traditional Collingwood-Essendon clash earlier

that day. It sets the scene for a blockbuster triple-header for Canberra fans, with the Giants playing on Thursday before the ACT Brumbies and Canberra Raiders play at Canberra Stadium on Saturday and Sunday respectively.

The game marks the first Anzac Day match to be played in Canberra since 2015, when the Giants hosted the Gold Coast Suns in front of 6917 people.

The GWS-Lions clash, which features two of this year's preliminary finalists, is expected to draw a bumper

crowd as part of the Giants' \$28.5 million deal with the ACT government to bring matches to Manuka Oval.

The Giants' other two fixtures will be revealed when the AFL's season 2024 fixture is published on Thursday, with one to come before the Anzac Day game and one to follow later in the season.

"It's really exciting to headline our 2024 Canberra fixture with a prime time Anzac fixture," Giants chief executive David Matthews said.

"It will be an honour to play in Canberra on such a

significant day and no doubt our club will play our part among the community on such a meaningful occasion.

"The ability to host a grand finalist side, paired with the form that the Giants brought at the end of 2023 provides a really exciting match up for the footy fans in the nation's capital."

"We continue to receive great support from our members and fans in Canberra."

"They're an integral part of our orange army and have been for over 12 years, and we look forward to our three

fixtures once again in season 2024."

The Anzac Day fixture will mark the third year in succession the Giants have hosted the Lions in Canberra.

The corresponding clash drew 10461 fans earlier this year, while 9010 witnessed the two teams play at Manuka Oval in 2022.

This year's Giants-Lions fixture brought in the club's third-biggest Canberra crowd in four years, with officials hopeful of bettering those numbers with both sides tipped to be premiership contenders. Brisbane were beaten in this year's grand final by four points against Collingwood, who had pipped the Giants by just one point in the preliminary final a week prior.

Officials are confident an Anzac Day game will be attractive for fans.

The Brumbies hosted an Anzac Day game against New Zealand's Waikato Chiefs in front of 16,159 fans in 2014, while the Raiders hosted South Sydney in front of 13,145 for an NRL Anzac Day game in 2010.